



COUNCIL BATTLES TO SAVE SERVICES

Report by Pam Kingsley

VITAL services could still be saved as Powys County Council meets to discuss its budget today (Thursday) after the authority was given an extra £1.9 million by the Welsh Government.

The council had been looking at "very difficult proposals" including reducing bin collections to just once every four weeks and axing rural bus routes.

But the council's cabinet was due to be told today that these services could be spared thanks to the additional funding.

However, the cabinet was also likely to hear the county would face further cuts in the coming years. The cabinet was due to discuss how to begin to make the £29.8 million cuts needed over the next three years.

Members were expected to agree a council tax increase of 4.25 per cent for a Band D property – equivalent to just over 85p a week – and savings of £10.4 million in the coming financial year.

Agreed

The budget agreed by the cabinet today will go to a full council meeting on Thursday next week before being officially set on March 9.

Before the cabinet meeting, Councillor Wynne Jones, portfolio holder for finance, said: "The Welsh Government's funding announcement will provide an additional £1.9m in the coming year and will mean that a number of very difficult proposals can be withdrawn."

"We will be taking forward a proposal that we no longer pursue plans to introduce transport charges for post-16 learners or take forward plans for further rural transport funding reductions and plans to move to a four-weekly collection of residual waste."

But the councillor added: "The situation will not be any easier in the following two financial years and the council will have to find a further £19.88 million in the following two financial years and continue to increase the rate of council tax in the county."

Shropshire Council is facing similar challenges with its budget.

It revealed this week its budget shortfall had leapt by more than £19 million in three weeks thanks to the latest projections on the cost of adult social care.

The cash-strapped authority says that its budget gap has risen by £10.2 million for 2016/17 from £37.6 million to £47.8 million.

The increase on its original projections, which were published in late January, is largely due to the growth in the council's adult services funding, along with changes to collection funds, and business rates.

The council has already warned that it will have to reduce funding for leisure centres, museums, and parks, to zero in 2017/18, without help from Government.

Campaigners demonstrate their love for hillfort



Helen East and Simon Greaves were among hundreds of people who took part in the hillfort hug. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

HUNDREDS of people demonstrated their love for Oswestry's heritage when they took part in a "hillfort hug" on Valentine's Day.

Around 300 people descended upon the ancient monument on Sunday to make a stand against plans for housing near the hillfort.

Young and old marched on the hillfort to show their love for the Iron Age site and also stood together to spell out from above the letters HOOOH – standing for Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort. The demonstration was captured using an aerial drone.

The march culminated in a procession with lights and drums.

Plans for housing near the hillfort are being challenged by historians and local people, who say the homes will damage views at the site.

Shropshire Council has agreed that land off Whittington Road should be earmarked for housing as part of its SAMDev planning document.

Tim Malin, an archaeologist from Oswestry who studies sites such as Old Oswestry Hillfort and is also a heritage planning advisor for the HOOOH campaign, said the campaigners' aim was to try to prevent development "creeping up" from and close to the hillfort.

He said: "Part of our planning laws at the moment are that settings for important monuments like Old Oswestry should be protected from development."

"Unfortunately as part of Shropshire Council's local plan, there is an allocation of housing for within what we believe is the im-

portant part of the setting for Old Oswestry so we're trying to campaign to inform people about the damage and the harm it will do for the Old Oswestry Hillfort."

The history of the site will be further explored by comedian and presenter Griff Rhys Jones in a TV show next week.

Griff's Great Britain – Borders – calls into Chirk and the south Shropshire hills, and also takes the popular presenter to the Old Oswestry Hillfort where he talks to members of the HOOOH group.

Diana Baur, a HOOOH member, was one of those who welcomed the star to Oswestry last summer for filming for the programme which will be shown on Monday at 8pm on ITV.

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TOURISM

Attraction closes gates because of deluge of visitors

A TOURIST attraction near Oswestry was forced to call for police assistance and close its gates after attracting 3,000 visitors in just two hours.

Hundreds of vehicles descended on the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry on Tuesday.

Despite opening up nearby fields for parking and having brought in extra staff, bosses at the attraction, which is sited off the A5 at Aston, were forced to admit they couldn't cope with the numbers.

British Ironwork Centre chairman Clive Knowles said: "Police were called to attend the site early morning, as we had received over 3,000 visitors in just two hours."

"A bitter decision had to be made and in order to keep everybody safe, the centre was closed to further visitors."

"We did not anticipate such a surge of attendance over such a small period of time."

"We only ever want to provide lovely experiences and completely recognise that on this occasion we have let so many people down."

"We will make sure that we make amends to all those who had tickets and were planning to attend."

"We decided to call the police to help us shut the centre but when an officer arrived he was happy with the steps we were taking."

● Standard – See Page 4

CHARITY

Inquiry launched into legion funds

THE Royal British Legion has revealed it is carrying out an investigation into a "fundraising issue" at its branch in Welshpool.

The organisation, which organises the annual Poppy Appeal for Remembrance Day, has not revealed any details of its investigation into the branch.

A spokeswoman for the Royal British Legion said: "I can confirm that we are holding an internal investigation into a fundraising issue at the Welshpool branch."

"No further comment will be made at this time."

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Praise for new movie project



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Refugee campaigner reveals motivation behind project

Report by Sue Austin

THE Oswestry businesswoman behind a movement to support Syrian refugees as they arrive in the area has explained her motivation behind the project.

Jools Payne said she would never describe herself as over-emotional but admits that she was deeply moved by a radio documentary about one woman's flight from Syria with her family.

Hamza's story so moved the businesswoman that she launched a support group to offer practical help and the hand of friendship to the Syrian Refugees who will arrive in the area later this year.

Oswestry Welcomes Syrian Refugees has already seen 40 individuals and organisations sign up to give help to the families.

On March 5 a pop-in meeting will be held in the Willow Gallery in Oswestry to answer any questions people may have about their arrival.

Mrs Payne, who is chairman of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, is a mum to three grown up children. She says it was that link, as a mother, that made her react to the BBC documentary in such a way.

Mrs Payne said: "In the interview a Syrian mother called Hamza talked as she was trying to get to Austria and onto Germany.

"Hamza's intelligent articulation of the horrors, terror and humiliation she and her family have endured in Syria and beyond, and their relentless journey to find the safe and better future that they, and all fellow refugees deserve is probably the most powerful piece of radio I have ever heard.

"It was a poignant, captivating, utterly compelling interview with Hamza.

"I try to imagine what it might be like if it was our government delivering barrel bombs on us and 'we' ordinary UK civilians were suddenly climbing into rubber dinghies to sail to Ostende, Dieppe or Rotterdam in search of safety and a better life only to enter an unending nightmare."

Mrs Payne is urging anyone who could help in any way to get in touch with her. She said: "It may be to go on a shopping trip, to act as a driver, or to get a group of children together to befriend the Syrian children."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Oswestry Welcomes Syrian Refugees campaign should contact Mrs Payne on (01691) 680717 or email jools@thejoolspaynepartnership.com.

Improvements made at town cemetery



Mayor Peter Cherrington takes a look at the new building at Oswestry Cemetery

A SHABBY portacabin and temporary toilets at Oswestry's cemetery have been replaced by a new building with private rooms, toilets and showers.

Work was completed on the new facilities earlier this month and the building has now been officially handed over by the contractors.

Town mayor, Councillor Peter Cherrington, said it's a far cry from the former facilities.

"It's a new state of the art building that will benefit visitors to the cemetery, local undertakers and our staff," he said.

"There are private rooms if a family wants to talk with the chaplain or just sit

quietly for a while, there are toilets including disabled toilets, and there's a shower.

"We were going to put in solar panels but we decided against it and we've put an air source heat pump unit in instead.

"It's cost us more money but you don't hear any sound and it just converts the heat from the air. The entire building is always the same temperature and the water is hot 24/7."

An office has also been included for representatives of the burial services to use, as well as staff changing rooms and storage space.

Councillor Cherrington said: "We have made significant investments in the ceme-

tery since we took over its full management in 2008.

"This is another much needed investment that demonstrates our commitment to provide quality facilities for the town.

"The contractor has been Jones Bros of Weston Rhyn and the architect Barrie Whitmore of NCS Whitmore and Humphries. We are pleased that all labour and materials have been sourced locally to help local businesses.

"Resurfacing of the entrance to the cemetery in Victoria Road has also taken place and some large floral planters will be added later this year to give a welcome and colour to the many visitors to the site each day."



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College is in the running for top prize

A COLLEGE is in the running to be named best in Britain after being shortlisted in a national competition.

Derwen College, near Oswestry, is one of just eight across the country to be named a finalist in the Further Education College of the Year 2016 category in the 'Tes FE' awards which celebrate those who have had an outstanding influence on post-16 education in their area.

The college, which is based at Gobowen, but has satellite centres in Penley, Craven Arms and Walford, is the only one for students with learning difficulties and disabilities that feature in any of the categories in this year's awards.

Chief executive Ruth Thomas said making the shortlist was wonderful news.

"It is testament to the hard work of all our staff," she said.

"We are predominately a residential college and the students receive support from a great number of different staff."

Derwen College has been recognised for a raft of successes.

It is ranked as "outstanding" by Ofsted and good by the Care Quality Commission, it is a Beacon College, a 'Fair Train' college and is a Makaton Centre of Excellence for the work it does with sign language. The winner will be announced at an award ceremony in London on April 22.

New rules over parking at store

A SUPERMARKET is ending its free unlimited parking to make way for a three-hour limit, sore bosses have revealed.

Tesco in Welshpool has confirmed that from February 29, restrictions will be put in place stopping people parking their cars at the supermarket all day.

Anybody who stays longer than the three hours will face a fine, the supermarket says.

The new regulations comes following five years of people being able to use the car park for free.

A Tesco spokesman said: "We're keen to ensure that customers can park easily at our store while shopping with us."

The spokesman added: "Parking will remain free for three hours giving our customers time to use the store and the town centre."

Swindled boss says he has been denied justice

Report by Sue Austin

A BUSINESSMAN swindled out of £85,000 by a trusted employer says he has no faith in the justice system after the fraudster avoided being sent to jail.

Phil George said there is no justice in the suspended prison sentence and unpaid work order handed down to Nick Woodcock at Shrewsbury Crown Court.

He said Woodcock almost broke his company Signmaster Systems and himself by taking the money not only to fund his gambling habit but to go on a luxury £10,000 trip to Australia.

Mr George praised the rest of his staff for getting the Whitechurch-based firm back on its feet and said the company is going from strength to strength.

Woodcock, 27, of Salop Road, Oswestry, was given a two-year prison sentence, suspended for two years at court on Monday after admitting two offences of fraud. He was ordered to undertake a supervision order for a year, complete 200 hours unpaid work and pay £3,000 compensation to the company. But Mr George said he had expected to see Woodcock receive an immediate jail sentence.

"Instead he has to do 200 hours community service - where is the justice in that," he said.

"I had always said that I would feel that justice had been done if he went to prison, if only for a few weeks. We are devastated at the suspended sentence."

Mr George and his wife Rachel started the company, which sells sign-making equipment, 20 years ago and employs 11 people. They employed Woodcock four years ago.

When sentencing Woodcock, Judge Jim Tindal said he had taken into account Woodcock's previous good character and his emotional health issues and the suspended sentence would allow the possibility of him paying compensation to his former employers.

Paul Smith, for Woodcock, said his client had expressed remorse and was ashamed and was devastated by the loss of his good character. He said Woodcock had always worked and had taken steps to tackle his gambling addiction.

Betsy is home again after adventure



The Hobson family welcome Betsy home after she went missing in Mid Wales and turned up near Oswestry

A DISTRAUGHT family have been reunited with their beloved pet pug who went missing from their home in Mid Wales.

Betsy went missing from her home at Beguildy near Knighton - and turned up miles away near Oswestry.

Owner Lynsey Hobson and her family and friends had posted pictures of Betsy on various social media sites.

Their message was even retweeted by actress Liz Hurley, who had recently lost her cat.

The family put up a £500 reward

for Betsy's return, put posters on internet pet sites and sent the pug's details to local vets.

Last week, Lynsey had a phone call from a man who said he knew the dog had been found in Oswestry. An excited Lynsey quickly set off for Oswestry and arrived at a vets to see Betsy asleep in her cage.

Vet Barbara Jones from the Oakwood Veterinary Centre, based at Babbinswood Farm, said: "I was lying on my bed at about 10pm when I heard someone at the door and a man shouting.

"I went downstairs and he

handed me the dog saying he had found it wondering the streets. He was reluctant to say any more apart from 'you can easily find the dog's owner, it's all over Facebook and everywhere else'."

Barbara said: "We kept the surgery open an extra hour and when Betsy heard Lynsey's voice, she was so excited.

"We all had tears in our eyes at the sight of the happy reunion."

Later that evening, Betsy was reunited with Lynsey's three youngest children, Shanie, Ella and McKenzie.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rider travelled at 136mph court told

A MOTORCYCLIST has been banned from driving after being clocked doing 136mph on the A5.

Thomas Brown was caught driving more than twice the 60mph limit on a single carriageway stretch of the road between Ty Nant and Dinmael near Corwen, Flintshire Magistrates Court heard. Brown, who admitted a charge of speeding on the road on October 25 last year, was banned from driving for six months, fined £120 and told to pay £105 costs.

The 25-year-old, of Brondinas, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, near Oswestry, admitted at court that he had been "stupid". Alun Williams, prosecuting, said the speed Brown reached was "utterly irresponsible".

Brown, who represented himself in court, said that he had since got rid of his Kawasaki motorcycle.

Invite to enjoy canalside walk

PEOPLE are being invited to take part in a walk along the Montgomery Canal towpath next month to celebrate the patron saint of Wales.

The event has been organised by the Friends of the Montgomery Canal group.

Freda Davies from the group said: "Do you fancy a walk along the Montgomery Canal with good company?"

"The Friends of the Montgomery Canal have organised a St David's Day themed towpath walk starting from the Horseshoes Inn, Arddleen at 10.30am on Saturday, March 5. Everyone is most welcome.

"If you would like lunch at the finish, please contact Chris Palin on (01938) 590039 by February 20."

Properties are hit by loss of power

ABOUT 100 homes and businesses were without electricity in Oswestry after a fault on an overhead line.

The power was lost in the Radford Fields and Shrewsbury Road area of the town at about noon on Monday.

A spokesman for Scottish Power said that the majority of customers had their supply reconnected within half an hour.

"We had a problem with an overhead line, which we were able to fix quickly," he said. "We apologise to our customers for the inconvenience."

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Youngsters well catered for by literary festival team

Report by Naomi Penrose

YOUNGER readers are in for a packed weekend of activities in March, organisers of this year's Oswestry LitFest have revealed.

The LitFest team has lined up a host of events especially for children as part of the reading festival. The eccentric AF Harrold will be bringing his Fizzlebert Stump stories to an audience of local schoolchildren on March 18 with local primary school children visiting The Marches School for the afternoon.

Mr Harrold's books are written to inspire children to get into reading by seeing the world through the eyes of Fizzlebert Stump. Fizz lives in a travelling circus, but although he gets to hang around with acrobats, play the fool with clowns and put his head in a lion's mouth every night, he's the only kid there – and he's bored.

But then he decides to join a library and life suddenly gets a lot more exciting, when a simple library card application leads to him being kidnapped by a pair of crazed pensioners.

On March 19 a host of events are taking place across the town which are open to all. Nursery age children are invited to take their teddies to a Winnie the Pooh story picnic to celebrate the 90th anniversary publication of the honey-loving bear with rhymes and stories.

The picnic is free and will start at 10am at the town's library.

At 9am and 4pm there will be pre-school story time sessions at Baby Bird Café using the Pip & Posy books by Axel Scheffler. Tickets are £3.

Infant school children will be able to get creative at the Willow Gallery from 11am with a "shine a light" story session and workshop with Carron Brown and Georgina Tee. The session will reveal the secrets of how the magical books are created and children can make a "shine a light" picture to take home. Tickets are £3.

Comic book lovers aged from seven will be invited to join Simon Furman from CITV's Matt Hatter Chronicles for a workshop on creating comics at The Centre at 2pm followed by a second session at 3pm for children aged from nine and adults focussing on Transformers. Tickets are £3.

And older children aged from nine will be able to play detective as they get to grips with puzzling clues in a "Whodunnit?" session at Qube based on The Clockwork Sparrow by Katherine Woodfine. Tickets are £3 and the session will start at 1pm.

Family fun will continue on the Sunday with a production of the timeless classic The Railway Children at The Marches at 2.30pm. Image Musical Theatre are preparing a fun-filled musical production of E. Nesbit's story. Tickets are £8 adults and £4 children.

Action call over closure of banks

BANK bosses have been asked to consider a u-turn on plans to close a series of branches across Mid Wales.

A debate took place in the Welsh Assembly on the effect a series of bank closures is having on rural communities.

Members supported a cross party motion which deplored the number of bank branch closures in Wales, and called upon the banks to consider the impact of bank branch closures on individuals, especially older people and small businesses, before final decisions on closures are made.

Russell George, AM for Montgomeryshire, said: "I have recently received hundreds of responses to my recent campaign to save HSBC branches in Llanfyllin and Llanfair Caereinion, showing just how important the retention of local bank branches are for our high streets if they are to continue to flourish; not just for ordinary customers but particularly for local businesses which require a daily over-the-counter service.

"Unfortunately, this campaign was to no avail and I am calling on banks to consider the wider social and economic consequences of closing bank branches, especially when they are the only remaining bank in the area."

HSBC closed two of its branches in Llanfyllin and Llanfair Caereinion last week, and has recently closed other branches in Llanidloes and Machynlleth.

It is also due to close its branches in Chirk and Ruabon.

William sets the standard



David Cooper, William Simpson and Clive Knowles

A TEENAGER has become one of the youngest standard bearers for the Royal British Legion – at the age of 17.

William Simpson, a member of the Combined Cadet Force at Oswestry School, agreed to step in and perform the role when the Oswestry branch of the RBL found itself faced with a diminishing and ageing membership.

He is now appealing to other young people to get involved.

"I was the standard bearer for Baschurch Royal British Legion, where I live, because of my involvement in the scouts. I was asked if I could help Oswestry and was more than happy to get involved," William said.

Branch chairman David Cooper said William was a wonderful ambassador for the RBL.

Mr Cooper said: "We are absolutely thrilled that he has agreed to be our standard bearer.

"We are appealing for more people in the Oswestry area to become involved in the Royal British Legion."

One of those who is helping the Oswestry branch in its recruitment campaign is Clive Knowles, owner of the British Ironwork Centre.

He said: We hope the branch will benefit from using our facilities for meetings and we are offering members a stand at our vintage vehicle rally in the summer as well as giving any other help that we can."



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Cheryl 'would not have shot herself' says friend

Report by Emma Walker

A FRIEND of a young recruit who died at Deepcut Barracks in Surrey did not believe she would commit suicide, an inquest has heard.

Helen Miller, giving evidence at the fresh inquest on Private Cheryl James, described the 18-year-old as "bubbly and lively" and said they had become very close while training before moving to Deepcut.

Ms Miller, appearing via video link at Surrey Coroners Court, said she would "never have imagined" Cheryl, whose parents Des and Doreen James live at Llanymynech near Oswestry, would take her own life.

"I wish that my last conversation with her had been a better one and not this ongoing thing with the two guys," she added, referring to the fact Cheryl was in a relationship with two men, James Carr-Minns and Paul Wilkinson.

Ms Miller last spoke to Cheryl while on their guard duty shift at 6.30am.

She said: "She seemed her normal self. 'I wanted her to make a decision (between the two men) - that seemed to be the topic of conversation.'"

The last thing Ms Miller said to Cheryl was that she would see her at lunch.

The day before her death the pair bought Christmas presents before stealing alcohol for a party that evening, the inquest heard.

Under questioning by Peter Mant QC, representing the family, who asked Ms Miller if she was surprised by Cheryl killing herself and whether the relationship troubles were a cause, she said "no" because "everyone had boyfriend trouble".

She said it was not something that was causing her "great upset", but was more "indecisiveness".

Ms Miller said suicide being a way out of that trouble seemed "way beyond extreme in comparison to the problem".

She added: "I was shocked, I would never have seen it coming."

High Court judges ordered the fresh inquest in 2014 after they quashed an open verdict recorded in December 1995.

Cheryl was found dead from a single gunshot wound at the barracks in 1995.

Privates Sean Benton, 20, James Collinson, 17, and Geoff Gray, 17, also died from gunshot wounds at the barracks between 1995 and 2002.

The inquest heard from Ms Miller about how the recruits had talked about the death of Pte Benton and that, if they were going to do it, how they would kill themselves.

"It was the general consensus to shoot yourself (in the head) would be the easiest way to do it," said Ms Miller. "Cheryl was part of that conversation."

"It was a conversation many were having, not Cheryl alone."

The hearing continues.

Homes bid for centre site praised

PLANS to build homes on the site of Oswestry's former leisure centre that has become a target for vandals and arsonists over the past five years have been welcomed.

Oswestry Town Council backed the plans to build 46 homes at the site in College Road.

The premises have been empty since the leisure centre moved in 2011 to a new build a short distance away.

Town mayor Councillor Peter Cherrington said: "I'm 100 per cent behind it. There have been concerns over fire risk and vandalism, and now there's the opportunity to revitalise the area and create additional housing for Oswestry."

"We do need to work with highways and other agencies to make sure we address any concerns regarding access for the residents on to College Road, and we will talk with the college which is next to the site as some of the students do use the site to park. I anticipate that it will go through the planning process without any issues or objections and that we'll see work starting in the summer."

The Wrekin Housing Trust has submitted a planning application for a mix of two and three bedroom affordable homes for rent. The trust's Sarah Bradshaw said: "If given the go-ahead, it would mean the regeneration of the area as well as the provision of much-needed quality, modern, affordable homes for local people."

Saints keep ahead of the game



The drone at The New Saints' pitch at The Venue, Oswestry

HERE'S one way of getting a bird's eye view during football training.

Coaches at Oswestry's The New Saints are trialling the latest technology in their training sessions.

They say the aerial video footage taken by a drone is similar to playing a football computer game, where everything can be seen much clearer from above.

The Saints' coaching staff will be looking at aspects of the team's play and will be able to focus on the tightness of player positions, timing of runs and how space can be exploited.

The club, based at The Venue at Park Hall, has joined forces with Mark Wynne of the company M7aerial to film training sessions. Mr Wynne said: "Clubs at all levels

come to us, as we have a proven record and ensure we fly safely whilst obtaining the perfect angles and positions.

"Unlike static cameras we can track players and follow lines and waves of play."

The use of drone technology has been introduced to the club by TNS first team coach Carl Darlington. He said he realised the potential of aerial views and watched it put into practise at the Wales national coaching conference.

Not content with drones, M7 has recently launched a sister company, M7virtual that specialises in 360video capture. This allows players wearing 360 cameras to review their spatial awareness during play and the technology does give the possibility of having 'eyes in the back of your head'.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Plans for a new housing project on the site of Oswestry's former leisure centre is the best bit of news I've heard for some time. It means we can at last get rid of a derelict eyesore and provide affordable homes for rent at the same time. Wrekin Housing Trust plans to build a mix of 46 two and three bedroom homes on the College Road site and that means badly needed starter homes for young families, desperate to find somewhere to live.

The area has been a target for vandals since the leisure centre doors closed back in 2011 and now plans will be decided by Shropshire Council's north planning committee. If planning consent is given, contractors Jessup Build will start demolishing the site in the summer and the badly needed new homes will be complete next year.

The site has been plagued by problems including fires, break-ins and fly tipping with rumours the building had been used by people sleeping rough. Arsonists targeted the former leisure centre and last year police warned parents to keep their children away. Young families in Oswestry need homes, with many still forced to live with their parents or in sub-standard accommodation so 46 new houses will be very welcome on College Road. Let's just hope the scheme is not delayed in the planning process and nice to see Oswestry Town Council giving its backing.

High drama in the Breeze household this week with three containers of milk all going sour at the same time and Mrs B all set to raise the roof at the local supermarket. After all the three were still well within their use-by date. Luckily her blushes were saved when it was discovered that the fridge had been switched off and not just the milk but everything else was ruined too. Now I wonder just who it was who flicked that switch? Perhaps we'll never know.

Does anybody know what would make someone pay over £3,000 for a child's pushchair? Or did anyone know you could? I caught the end of a TV documentary this week and it seems there's a class war going on out there to see who can buy the best set of state-of-the-art wheels for their little darlings. In my days pushchairs and prams were often hand-me-downs through generations of families but now it seems all that's changed and today's young mum will only be seen pushing the latest and most stylish chair.

And that may even mean parting with £3,000 for an Aston Martin version. Yes – Aston Martin.

It's just madness and it seems the bigger the buggy the more expensive it becomes and the bigger problem it causes on the pavement or in our shops.



Mum Sarah Cox, with son Simon, says her family have been helped immensely by Hope House



Hope House Children's Hospice offers families throughout the region a vital service



Entertainer and comedian Harry Secombe was one of the early patrons of Hope House

WORKING FOR YOU



I am pleased this month to welcome the new proposals from the government on rural funding. In a statement to the House of Commons on Monday, February 8, Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, set out new measures to support rural councils during the transition to full business rates retention. The Rural Services Delivery Grant will increase from £15.5 million this year to £80.5 million next year. Ministers will also provide a £150 million a year transitional fund for the biggest losers over the next two years, £32.7 million of which will go to rural areas. In the meantime, the Government will carry out a Fair Funding Review, which will inform the move to 100 per cent business rates retention scheme. The new assessment will be an opportunity to highlight the particular needs of rural areas.

I am delighted that under the new proposals, Shropshire Council will receive an additional £8.5million. This is a good start.

According to research by the Rural Services Network, residents in rural areas currently pay £81 more in council tax than their urban counterparts, earn less, and yet see urban residents receive 45% more in central government funding for their council services. This is despite the fact that services in rural areas are more expensive to deliver.

The Government's provisional settlement, set out in December, would have reduced the overall amount of central government funding for rural councils by over 31 per cent over the four year period, whereas urban councils would only have received a 22 per cent average cut.

I have been working closely with Graham Stuart, Member of Parliament for Beverley and Holderness and chairman of the Rural Fair Share Campaign to lobby the Government on this issue. Whilst there is still much to do to achieve equal funding for rural areas and this is only a small step on the journey to fairer funding, I am pleased that ministers have listened to our concerns.

North Shropshire constituents have the right to expect to be taxed fairly and to receive a fair amount of support for their local services. In response to questioning from Daniel Kawczynski, the Communities Secretary Greg Clark has agreed to come to Shropshire to meet the Leader of the Council and discuss Shropshire Council's concerns. At the meeting, I will be making the point to him again that delivering services to sparsely populated rural areas is as complex, expensive and difficult as in urban areas, if not more so and the Government must work toward correcting the unfairness in the funding system.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

Hope House Children's Hospice is celebrating its 21st birthday. SHIRLEY TART reports

HOPE House Children's Hospice at Morda near Oswestry began as an amazing vision and is here today because enough people fought to keep the dream alive to see it built 21 years ago.

There can never have been a more appropriate name than Hope House.

In all its years of service, the children's respite hospice has attracted support from some big names, including an early patron Harry Secombe.

It has brought hope and comfort to countless little ones, to desperate mums and dads, bewildered brothers and sisters and loving grandparents who just didn't know what to do to help their much loved families. Hope House knew what to do.

And so it became a place of opening up even the most limited lives rather than closing them down which is what it so often felt like before. For so many, the living room at home only interspersed with emergency hospital visits, became their world and a pretty lonely one it could sometimes be. Sometimes the most loving friends who tried their best to support, had no real idea of what might be needed medically as well as emotionally. Everybody was tentative, a bit scared, families were tired and stressed, the children needed 24-hour care with little respite. With the best will in the world, no-one quite knew what else to do.

Hope House knew what to do.

Having said what a great name is above its door, however, that had another, a more treasured background. The hospice was actually named in mem-



Hope House has a new logo to celebrate 21 years

in our county and for one undisputed reason.

Hope House always knew what to do. That Hope House is also a place of welcome, colour, warmth and laughter is often as surprising to first time visitors – but a great big bonus as well.

The children's hospice movement is so much a part of our societies across the country, transforming lives, helping children and young people live with dignity, encouraging the more able to do what they can and always giving that tender, loving care at moments when nothing else is needed. It is inconceivable to think of life without it. Hope House Hospice is very much looking to the future as it celebrates its 21st year.

That means a new campaign, called Can you Give a Little Love, and a new fresh logo for the charity as it moves forward. The hospice hopes that the anniversary year will help stimulate extra fundraising, especially as it highlights the many hundreds of families it has helped over the years.

And the new logo is deliberately bright, to emphasise that Hope House is a place of happiness, where life is cherished and families find the love and support they need in their hour of need.

Simi Epstein, director of fundraising and marketing at Hope House, said that the logo is an important part of letting the public know what Hope House

is all about, adding: "The research has shown that we need to do more to help people understand the wide range of services we provide and who we care for."

"As part of improving that understanding, it is vital that our brand does justice to the vital and valuable work we do – to engage more supporters, enabling us to help even more children and families who need us."

Many families have been helped by Hope House. When Sarah and Robin Cox left their Shropshire home with their baby son Simon, then just five months old, they were looking forward to their first holiday together as a young family.

But just days later, Simon was taken seriously ill with a chest infection and was rushed into hospital. Microcephaly was diagnosed.

In Simon's case this meant cerebral palsy, he is wheelchair bound and is registered blind.

Back at home life became a full-time, challenging round of appointments with specialists and hospital visits.

Which was when a health visitor suggested referring Simon to Hope House for support.

"We went to have a look around and it was lovely," Sarah says.

"That gave us confidence to relax a bit, take a break and get a good night's sleep. Simon loves it at Hope House. He relishes all the attention and particularly likes the swimming pool and music therapy. And because he's so happy, we're able to relax."

As Simon has reached 18, his healthcare has moved from children's to adult services – another big challenge. But again the Hope House team is there with him when he has to go to an unknown adult ward in hospital. Sarah said: "We know Hope House can respond to anything. They can rise to the challenge whatever Simon throws at them because they understand his condition." The Cox family don't know what his future holds – but they do know that Hope House will always be there for them.

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CAN MY EX JUST TAKE THE CHILDREN WITHOUT MY CONSENT?

Q: Q: I separated from my long term partner after Christmas because I was fed up with the way he expected me to run around clearing up after him and doing everything around the house. Our parting was very vitriolic as he didn't want the relationship to end. Now he is trying to get back at me in every way he can, even trying to use our two children as a weapon against me.

He keeps threatening to take them away from me if I don't go back to him, claiming they would have a better life. I work and the children go to after-school club until I can pick them up, but I'm worried he will just go and get them before I get there. Can he do this?

A: If your ex was present when the children's births were registered and he is named on their birth certificates he is very likely to share parental responsibility with you. This means there is nothing to stop him from picking them up from school and there is nothing to compel him to return them to your care.

If this happened the police may do a welfare check, but provided the children are not in any danger they will not bring the children home. To ensure the children have to be returned to you, you will need to obtain an Order from the Court. Firstly, you will have to attend a mediation information assessment meeting (MIAM). If you don't want to go to mediation you still have to attend a MIAM before making an application to the Court. The first hearing will usually not be held until 6 weeks after you submit an application so you should think about instructing a Solicitor to try to negotiate the return of the children in the meantime.

This question has been answered by Alison Peters, a Partner with GHP Legal.

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Letters

Pull together or we head for a disaster

THE Government needs waking up to the fact flood victims who can't get or afford home insurance, will be haunted for the rest of their lives.

With a flood-damaged bridge in Tadcaster, Yorkshire, the locals had to make a nine-mile detour to cross the river.

In the likes of 'wild' Borneo, so-called progress enables the locals to cross huge gorges on zip-wires.

So-called progress is decimating rainforests – for timber and farming – which indigenous people rely on for food and shelter.

In some cases they've been forced to leave their huts at gun point, or to grow/manu-

facture 'crack cocaine': there's a market for it in the US and Europe.

In modern times, from North America to Australia, so-called progress has seen indigenous people forced off their land: where they trusted in Mother Nature to provide, and perhaps gave thanks to the likes of rain gods and sun gods, they've been told its wrong – 'you must accept the ways of the modern world'.

Many have paid the ultimate price for not accepting it.

Isn't it inevitable all indigenous peoples will eventually cease to exist? Might there come a time when all our 'gadgets' are use-

less, and only those who can make fire by rubbing two sticks together, will survive?

Think! While flood victims work together to survive, many of those who aren't affected, still drive around like lemmings: give them a clear lane of a motorway, and it's 90mph with no thought for global warming, 'bogged down' A&Es, a 'sinking' NHS, or the future of the next generation.

Unless the nation pulls together, and with IS telling Cameron 'his way is the wrong way', we are on the road to armageddon.

ALLAN RAMSAY
Manchester

'Raging torrent' brought chaos to area



A raging torrent sweeps through Glyn Morlas, St Martins. This photo was taken on June 8, 1983, and the story that day began: "Chaos hit Oswestry and its surrounding villages last night as one of the worst storms in living memory lashed the area... countless homes in the district were hit by floods after sudden torrential rain."

Result of this EU referendum is done and dusted

THE most stupid nation on earth. It must be clear to all by now that the coming Brexit referendum is nothing but a cynical devious scam and that the result – Britain staying in the European Union – has been done, dusted and paid for many months ago. The EU does not and never has practised democracy – it does not need to, like the Mafia before it overgenerous cash payments buy the support it needs. Brussels will be pouring millions (our millions), into the Britain Stays in Europe campaign – those supporting Brexit will get nothing.

In our 43 years of membership Britain has accepted a million regulations – some of which, like the European Arrest Warrant, fly in the face of our legal system and some of which, like the Open Borders Policy, are beyond belief and will have serious implications for this island.

We have no political input in Brussels, a consequence being that we now have no heavy industry and little manufacturing capability.

B WYDELL
Oswestry

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Reverse solar energy cuts

I SEE that our Conservative MP, Glyn Davies sees solar energy as the way ahead. I trust that he will therefore be lobbying his colleagues in the Conservative Party to persuade the government to reverse the cuts they have made to subsidies for solar energy. They seem to prefer tying our grandchildren into over-the-top prices for nuclear energy, provided by the foreign companies building the new power stations and rushing ahead with fracking.

D COLLINGTON
Caersws

What is added to food may be cause of cancer

THERE is something the Government is not telling us about cancer and its causes.

A man born in 1930 would have a 38.5 percent chance of developing cancer and by 1948 would have an 82 per cent chance of being a smoker and most probably frequented public houses full of cigarette smoke. Today people drink less and smoking is banned from public houses and the number of people who smoke is 75 per cent less than in 1948, yet the risk of a man developing cancer has risen to 50 per cent.

Too much smoking and drinking can cause cancers in some people, but I think there is a bigger cause of cancers, and that is food additives. Aspartame was banned in Europe in the 1970s because scientists discovered a link between this artificial sweetener and a rise in cancer, and there have also been health concerns about MSG another food additive found in almost every processed food. I think it is definitely not what we eat, but what has been put in to our food.

M NORWOOD
Shropshire

There will be pitfalls if the UK decides to leave the EU

IT is rich of Owen Paterson, a prominent climate change denier, to use the current flooding emergency as a weapon in his Brexit campaign.

The link between global warming and extreme, more frequent climatic events is by now undeniable. Even more suspect, however, are the grounds for his contention that the UK would be better equipped to deal with such crises outside the European Union. He conveniently declines to mention that available EU funding for flood prevention and alleviation has not been taken advantage of by his government. Whatever the merits or otherwise of our remaining in the EU, the debate must not be conducted under a smog of misinformation. Rural industry and economy have grown massively under the influence of UK agricultural and rural policies. The UK is already heavily protected from animal and plant disease by EU legislation – much of it originating from UK governments.

EU directives do not prevent member states from operating their own drainage policies. The European Commission has already introduced GM crops approval scheme – allowing members to opt out. One final crucial point: a post-Brexit government could maintain farm income subsidy, but it won't. The Conservatives have been consistently opposed to income subsidies and will abolish them. Policy papers indicate that farm support would be cut by as much as two-thirds.

I BARGE
Ludlow

Thin blue line getting thinner

I HAVE watched with some concern as the police presence in my area of north Shropshire has been subject to a slow dismantling based not on operational needs but rather due to cost. We seem to pay more and more taxes and rates and get less and less from the public sector.

I suspect what is happening is that pension payments based on large numbers of ex-employees or £1 million payments to re-employ ex-NHS managers in the same hospital is putting a strain on things. Events in Germany just recently indicate that a vital requirement of policing is anticipation of events not merely reaction. Part of the problem is targets. I would prefer to live in an area where there was no crime rather than a good detection rate. Yet what we are seeing is a philosophy based solely on reaction. Increasing levels of affordable housing and immigration from some countries where crime is the sole economic driver are making for an unpredictable future. Boots on the ground please. I hear that West Mercia are looking at dismantling the PCSO system. This is pure madness. Does this mean my only police contact will be with a far distant control room. What's next? Subcontracting out to an Indian call centre?

R LLOYD
Ellesmere

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Historic site sold to Potter Group

A SIGNIFICANT and historic building, with links to the world's first mail order businesses, has been bought by the Welshpool-based Potter Group of companies.

The sale of the Royal Welsh Warehouse in Newtown, which has undergone a £1m refurbishment in recent years has been confirmed.

Commonly known as Pryce Jones Warehouse the late Sir Pryce Pryce-Jones established the world's very first mail order company there, selling a range of flannel-based products to customers all over the world, even listing Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale as customers. The building is currently partially let to multiple tenants, though half of the 80,500 sq ft premises is available to new businesses.

Chief executive to speak at meeting

THE head of Shropshire Council will speak to residents from villages near Oswestry next week about the way budget pressures are being tackled.

Clive Wright, chief executive of the unitary authority, will be the guest speaker at the Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins and Weston Rhyn local joint committee meeting at St Martins School on Tuesday. He wants to gauge opinion on the way ahead for local government. One local issue is the future of Gobowen Library and there will be an update on the work of the Gobowen Library Partnership which has been in discussion with potential funding partners.

The meeting will start at 7pm and further information can be obtained on (01691) 677306 or visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/communityworking.nsf

Boy died instantly after falling from ropeswing

Report by Sue Austin

A 12-year-old boy who died when he fell from a rope swing died instantly after hitting his head on a rock, an inquest heard.

Young friends of Ethan Brady-Rainey, from Trevor, near Oswestry, desperately tried to save him, wading into the River Dee to carry him to dry land, performing resuscitation techniques and flagging down vehicles to get help.

At the inquest into Ethan's death, coroner John Gittins commended friends for doing what they could to try to save his life.

He told Ethan's mother, Tammy Rainey: "He was out and about with his mates, doing the things that boys love to do."

"I must commend Ethan's friends for their great bravery."

"They showed huge courage going into the water and recovering their friend and attempting to resuscitate him. Sadly his injuries were unsurvivable."

The inquest held at Ruthin Coroner's Court on Friday heard that Ethan was with a friend on the day of the tragedy, September 30 last year. In a statement to police the 12-year-old said he had known Ethan for five years and said they went to Dinas Bran School in Llangollen together.

He said that about about 4pm the pair went with two others to Bont Bridge, close to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and started to play on the rope swing.

"We went to get some conkers from a tree in the field but Ethan stayed on the rope swing," he told the inquest.

"After three or four minutes I heard a scream from Ethan."

The friends found Ethan face down in the river.

The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Plans revealed for former station



The former transmitting station at Criggon has a fascinating history

IT was once at the heart of Britain's naval communications during World War Two and the Cold War.

The order for the sinking of the German battleship Scharnhorst in 1943 – seen as a huge psychological blow for the Nazi high command – is rumoured to have been made through Shortwave B, a transmitting station at Criggon, near Welshpool.

But the intervening years have been less kind to the building. It has

not been used since 2003 and now lies empty and derelict. Now plans have been unveiled to bring the former station back into use – as a family home. Margaret Astbury has applied to Powys County Council for permission to turn the building into a four-bedroom home.

She has already made some repairs to the building. "The work carried out so far has been met with great appreciation by many of the locals as well as tourists who have

stopped to admire and photograph the building," said Mrs Astbury.

"A suitable use must be found for the building to maintain the unique architecture and character. It is the intention to maintain the external facades and make no structural changes internally." She said the changes would be the first part of a scheme to make use of the whole site and bring it back into use. Further plans include decontaminating the ground as well as landscaping work.

Magistrates court will close justice chiefs reveal

SHREWSBURY Magistrates Court, the court which serves the Oswestry area, will close within five months, it has been announced.

Cases will be heard at Telford following the closure. The move will also see Shrewsbury Crown Court moved from its current base at Shirehall into the vacated magistrates' premises nearby in Preston Street.

The decision has been taken by the Ministry of Justice following consultation launched in July last year. It means that people will be required to travel from north of Oswestry and from the south Shropshire border to Telford for hearings.

No timescale has yet been put forward for the crown court's move, although Shrewsbury Magistrates Court will close some time between now and June.

The Shropshire branch of the Magistrates Association had objected to the closure on the basis that it would restrict access to justice by making it "difficult or impossible" for some people to get to Telford by 9.30am.

In its response the Ministry of Justice said it accepted that some people would face increased travel times but added: "In line with current practice, court and tribunal users who face exceptional difficulties in attending court for a particular time can make an application to have their case heard at a different time on an individual basis."

Chris Grainger, a solicitor at Lanyon Bowdler who represents defendants across the county, said the move was making the delivery of justice in the community "impossible".

He said: "For those without a car getting to Shrewsbury and back again is a significant cost, and closing Shrewsbury Magistrates Court is going to exacerbate that problem, especially for those travelling from Oswestry and Market Drayton."

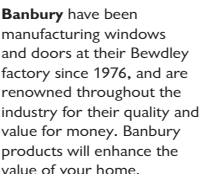
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Two admit to allegation of kidnapping

TWO men have admitted kidnapping, false imprisonment and blackmail following an incident in Mid Wales last September.

David Staff, 34, of Leaside Road, Blaenau, Chester and Andrew Ballatyne, 36, of Rough Hill, Marlston cum lache, Chester, both appeared at Mold Crown Court via a live television link from Altcourse Prison in Liverpool.

Both of the defendants admitted kidnapping a man on September 2, falsely imprisoning him, and blackmailing him by making unwarranted demands for money.

Judge David Hale remanded both in custody for sentence, pending the outcome of the trial of two others who denied the offences.

Nathan Parry, 37, of Jack's Wood, Ellesmere Port, and Natalie Goode, 33, of Clivedon Road in Chester, denied all three offences and their case was adjourned for trial in March.

Parry was remanded in custody and Goode was bailed in the meantime.

The proceedings arise from an incident when a man was taken from his vehicle and driven off in the Llanymynech/Four Crosses area on September 2.

Invitation given to join craft group

A CRAFT group is holding meetings on the third Friday of every month.

Oswestry and District Embroiderers' monthly meeting takes place in the Memorial Hall, Oswestry.

The craft group meeting starts at 10.30am, while tea and coffee is served at 10am. Visitors are always welcome at a cost of £5.

The junior branch - the Jets - meets on the first Saturday of every month, from 10am to 12 noon, again at the Memorial Hall, Oswestry.

For more details, call (01691) 650374.

Enjoy the excellent taste of Twelve Green Bottles

WE MEAN BUSINESS

THE Chronicle's We Mean Business campaign celebrates Oswestry's businesses. This week we celebrate Twelve Green Bottles on Leg Street.

Local wine merchant Twelve Green Bottles is a family owned business run by the Jenkins family.

Neil and Mandy sell great quality wines made by small producers along with both local and imported craft beers from their retail shop on Leg Street, where they also offer an extensive range of organic, biodynamic and low sulphite wines.

Neil said: "Our retail shop is located in the centre of Oswestry where our great selection is available to all, backed up with friendly advice from Mandy. Mandy holds regular weekend wine tastings and runs a wine club every first Thursday of the month at the Willow Gallery where you can meet up and drink exceptional wines, accompanied by a selection of paired savoury nibbles. We have recently updated our website - www.twelvegreenbottleswine.co.uk - where we publish a regular blog about wine, and from which we now offer free nationwide delivery on our entire wine range." Neil looks after the company's trade customers, and he works closely with pubs and restaurants throughout Shropshire, providing them with a selection of wine and craft beers. He offers free daily deliveries, training for front of house staff, bespoke professionally designed wine lists and a free bottle of fizz with the first trade order. Contact Neil or Mandy via their shop at 4 Leg Street or on (01691) 650160.



Mandy Jenkins runs Twelve Green Bottles at Leg Street in Oswestry with her husband Neil

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pupils to grow seeds from space

SCHOOL pupils are preparing to become space biologists, embarking on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been into space.

The Sycamore Class at West Felton CofE Primary School, near Oswestry, will be taking delivery of a packet of 100 rocket seeds which were flown to the International Space Station in September and are due to return to Earth in March. The children will grow the space seeds alongside seeds that haven't been to space and measure the differences over seven weeks.

The pupils won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians. Helen Hughes, deputy head and Sycamore Class teacher, said: "We are very excited to be taking part in Rocket Science. This experiment is a fantastic way of teaching our pupils to think more scientifically and share their findings with the science community at large."

Ex-MP Lembit recovers from op

FORMER Montgomeryshire MP Lembit Opik is recovering after undergoing the first in a series of life-changing operations to fix his jaw.

Mr Opik, 50, went under the knife on January 26 in a bid to reposition his asymmetric jaw.

The former politician, who held his seat between 1997 and 2010, now faces a series of operations so surgeons can complete the work.

Orthognathic surgery, as it is known, is routine - although serious - but Mr Opik's condition was so severe that he says his doctors want to use him as a case study of a complicated case to teach students.

He said: "In X-rays, I look like the Terminator. Smiling hurts. Talking hurts. Laughing hurts."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Large attendance at group meeting

THERE was a record attendance at the January meeting of the North Powys branch of National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies.

The meeting heard from Edward Parry who gave an illustrated lecture on the black and white houses of Montgomeryshire.

The next lecture will take place on Thursday next week, when Group Captain Michael Clegg's topic will be In the Realm of Osiris - Spectacular Egyptian Art.

The society meets on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Powis Suite of the Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool, at 2.30pm.

Non-members are welcome to attend, though a donation of £5 toward costs is requested. For further information contact roger.brown001@btinternet.com or avril@avrilhart.com

Talks will look at public services

WELSHPOOL residents will be able to find out more about the town's public services and what is being done to keep them at a public meeting next week.

The town council will hold the meeting on Monday.

The talks will be held in the council chamber of the Town Hall from 7pm to 8pm.

There will be a short presentation on public services.

A presentation will also be given during the evening on the issues surrounding devolution of running some of the services from Powys County Council to other bodies, and what the town council is trying to do to retain services in the town.

All are welcome.

Youngsters given tips on financial planning

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE next generation of savers have been given an early insight into the value and impact of money by a leading regional building society.

More than 250 year seven and eight pupils at Welshpool High School took part in a quiz and other interactive elements during a special 'Money Go Round' workshop delivered by the West Brom.

Rachael Jones and Tricia Jones, managers of the West Brom's Welshpool and Newtown branches respectively, spoke to youngsters aged between 11 and 13 about issues such as the differences between a bank and a building society and what people use them for, the dangers of debt and guidance on money management.

Rachael said: "It was fantastic to have the chance to go to Welshpool High School and offer a gentle introduction to money and how it affects everybody on a day-to-day basis. Money can be a confusing subject and it's important, through initiatives like this workshop, to get youngsters thinking about the various issues from an early age. The students were very receptive to what we were saying and hopefully they found it as rewarding listening to the presentation as we did delivering it." Natalie Forsyth, assistant headteacher at Welshpool High School, said: "Feedback from the students afterwards was very positive and all appreciated a maths lesson on such a real topic. The session forms part of a topic of money covered in the KS3 curriculum, equipping students with skills of handling money that will be vital in years to come."



West Brom Newtown and Welshpool branch managers Tricia Jones, left, and Rachael Jones with students

No further action against councillors

THREE Welshpool councillors have been told that no further action will be taken by the Ombudsman following complaints over comments allegedly made at a Royal British Legion club meeting.

Councillors Estelle Bleivas, Heather Chave and Hazel Evans were reported to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales after claims they broke the council's code of conduct. The complaint to the Ombudsman stemmed from a meeting of the Welshpool branch of the Royal British Legion in November. All three have now been told they will not face any further investigations. A Public Services Ombudsman for Wales spokesman said: "Last month, the Ombudsman received a complaint against three Welshpool town councillors - Heather Chave, Hazel Evans and Estelle Bleivas - concerning whether they had breached the council's code of conduct. Following assessment, it has been decided that in the cases of Councillor Chave and Evans, there was no evidence of a breach of code. In the case of Councillor Bleivas it has been decided it is not in the public interest to investigate this matter."

Town ramblers on the move again

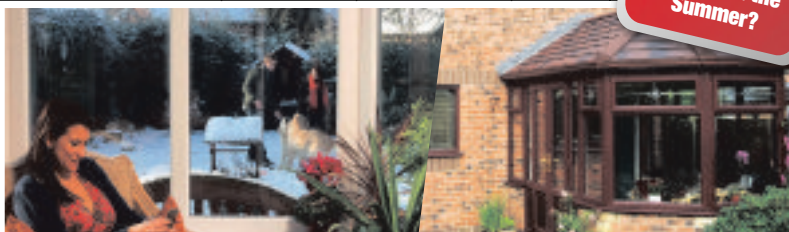
THE Welshpool Ramblers walk on Sunday will be led by Jim Rowley.

The 10-mile moderate circular route will start from Dolanog and follow the River Vyrnwy to Pontrobert. After lunch in Pontrobert the return will be on the other side of the river. Meet at 9.30 am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Centre from where transport may be available, or alternatively at the start of the walk in the Car Park in Dolanog.

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Specialists from wig and bra companies will also be on hand as well as a team from Nuffield Health Telford Fitness & Wellbeing Gym to explain the best way for women to exercise. This unique day not only showcases all that Nuffield Health Shrewsbury Hospital can offer the ladies of our county, but is also a fabulous opportunity to learn about every aspect of Women's Health.

WHEN:

Saturday 5th March 2016

TIME:

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WHERE:

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Make a fuss of each other this Mother's Day

Report by Lisa Salmon

WITH Mother's Day just around the corner, every parent knows having children can be an incredibly fulfilling experience.

But mum and dad's relationship can also suffer as a result, experts say.

While a new study has found more than three quarters of British parents feel more satisfied and happier since having children, it also revealed they have less quality time together, go on fewer date nights and say 'I love you' less often than before they had kids.

The research, by the family care manager care.com, found most couples only enjoy an average of one date night a month, compared to two a month before they started a family.

An occasion such as Mother's Day is a perfect time to make a fuss of your partner.

Agony aunt Suzie Hayman, a trustee of the parenting charity Family Lives, warns: "It's so important to try to make time for each other."

"When people talk about having no time, often it's because they're spending the time they do have doing things that aren't important at home."

"Close the door on work when you come home, and remember that the people you're living with are more important than the people on your social media network."

"There is a place for having time in your home together, when you say you're going to have a special night really paying attention to each other."

"Sometimes it can be fun to 'ban' talking about the children and have an evening at home together being romantic."



It's important for couples to make time for each other

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man admits to child sex charges

A MAN has admitted a series of child sex charges.
David Philip Francis, 60, admitted performing an indecent act in the presence of a child and photographing himself doing it. Francis, of Broynywaun, Chirk, near Oswestry, also admitted charges of making indecent images and films by downloading them from the internet and distributing them.
Sentencing was adjourned at Mold Crown Court on Friday so that the issue of dangerousness can be assessed. Francis appeared at the court via a live television link from Alt-course Prison in Liverpool. He admitted a total of 18 offences.
Alun Williams, defending, said his client was a man of no previous convictions. He asked for a pre-sentence report and said that clearly the issue of dangerousness needed to be considered.
Judge Gaynor Lloyd granted an application by prosecuting barrister Simon Rogers to remand the defendant in custody pending sentence.

Arrest made after lorry overturns

A MAN has been arrested after a lorry overturned spilling hay on to one of Shropshire's busiest roads.
Rush hour traffic built up on the A5 after the lorry toppled over at the roundabout at Felton Butler, near Nesscliffe, spilling a shed load of hay on Wednesday last week.
Traffic heading northwest towards Oswestry moved slowly after the accident at about 3.40pm, and the road was closed while the scene was cleared. Terri-Anne Powell, spokeswoman for West Mercia Police, said: "No injuries were reported."
"There is a man under arrest."
"I believe there was debris on the road and the lorry was believed to be transporting hay."

Date set for minister to visit 'danger' road

Report by Naomi Penrose

A DATE has been set for the Transport Minister to be shown first hand the problems faced by motorists using the "dangerous" A5 near Oswestry.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has confirmed Patrick McLoughlin has agreed to meet with him on May 27 to take a look at the road.
Mr Paterson has previously said the road has two of the most dangerous junctions in Shropshire – at Shotatton crossroads and Queens Head, near Oswestry.
The A5 is a dual carriageway from the end of the M54 at Wellington to the western edge of Shrewsbury at Montford Bridge.
It then becomes single lane, except for the Nesscliffe bypass, for the rest of its route through Shropshire and when it joins up with the A483 on the edge of Oswestry.
Mr Paterson hopes to persuade the minister that the road north of Shrewsbury should be made a dual carriageway and will also press for a bypass for Llanymynech and Pant on the nearby A483 on the Shropshire/Powys border.
He said: "The Transport Minister Patrick McLoughlin has agreed to come to Shropshire on May 27. We haven't firmed up the details yet but we will start in Shrewsbury and then travel up the A5."
"Hopefully there I will also be able to take him along the A483 to see the problems at Pant and Llanymynech. These are two major trunk roads and important arterial roads. The stretch of A5 between Montford Bridge and the Welsh border is the only single carriageway stretch of road on the Trans-European Transport Network between Ireland and mainland Europe."
Mr Paterson has been campaigning for improvements to the A5 for almost 20 years.

Prestigious prize for farm attraction



Jane Powell from Park Hall, Lorraine Bentley from award sponsor Colour Heroes, Richard Powell from Park Hall, Colin Evans, chairman of NFAN

PARK Hall Countryside Experience near Oswestry has been named Best in Education 2016 at a prestigious National Farm Attractions Network (NFAN) annual conference held in Liverpool.
The attraction took first prize after judges praised its "diversity and excellence" in the range of educational activities on offer.
Rachel Mottram, education and marketing manager at the farm, said: "The judges praised the health and safety information given to teachers and the range of learning opportunities for children. They were particularly impressed by innovations such as our World War One trenches for visitors and the historic learning opportunities."
"Park Hall was, in their words, 'a worthy winner of the Best in Education award'.
The attraction offers animal activities including milking cows and grooming ponies, as well as four

museums giving young visitors the chance to step back in time and take a lesson as a Victorian school pupil, find out more about the Welsh Guards, see what it was like to live in an Iron Age roundhouse, or experience life in World War One by taking a tour of the extensive trench system. The trench system has been designed and replicated to give an impression of the soldier's experience of trench warfare. Visit the attraction's website for opening times.

New funding scheme set to help out our athletes

AN Oswestry athlete is hoping a new crowdfunding scheme pays off.
The scheme is aimed at helping individuals and organisations across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin to raise cash for their sport-related activities.
Among the first to sign up are two local stars with Olympic dreams – Telford-born judo star Kelly Edwards, and Mark Fosbrook from Oswestry who is part of the Great Britain wheelchair basketball team.
Both are hoping to use the crowdfunding scheme to raise vital funds needed to help them fulfil their ambitions of making it to the Olympics in Rio this summer.
The programme is a joint venture between county sports partnership Energize, and specialist online funding charity Podium Partners.

Clubs, groups and organisations from across the county can make their pitch for funding by creating a campaign on the official website, energiz-estw.podiumpartners.org.
Mark Fosbrook is hoping to raise £5,000 through the crowdfunding site.
He was part of the GB wheelchair basketball team which won European gold in 2014, meaning qualification for this year's Olympics.
He said: "We are currently going through a selection process and I am training hard to make the team."
"In the lead-in to the games we go into a full time programme which means I will be required to take five months off work."
"Luckily I have an understanding employer who will allow me to have this time off unpaid."
Mark added: "The problem is how I cover all of my costs and support my family."
"I am very grateful to receive some funding from UK Sport and the National Lottery, but this doesn't cover everything."





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Official fuel economy figures for the BMW i3: mpg N/A, CO2 emissions 0 g/km, nominal power output (electric motor) 75/102 kW/hp at 4,800 rpm; peak power output (electric motor) 125/170 kW/hp, total average energy consumption per 62 miles/100 km (combined cycle) 12.9 kWh. Total range: 118 miles (combined cycle). Customer orientated range: up to 100 miles. Official fuel economy figures for the BMW i3 with Range Extender: 470.8 mpg, CO2 emissions 13 g/km, total average energy consumption per 62 miles/100 km (weighted combined cycle) 11.5 kWh. Range without use of Range Extender: 106 miles (weighted combined cycle). Customer orientated range without use of Range Extender: up to 93 miles. Official fuel economy figures for the BMW i8: Weighted combined cycle: mpg 134.5 (2.1 l/100 km), CO2 emissions 49 g/km, power output (engine) 170/231 kW/hp, power output (electric motor) 96/131 kW/hp, total average energy consumption per 62 miles/100 km (weighted combined cycle) 11.9 kWh, customer-orientated total range up to 373 miles. Maximum electric range value 23 miles, common average electric range value (e-Drive only) up to 23 miles. The BMW i8 is a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle that requires mains electricity for charging.

Figures may vary depending on different factors, including but not limited to individual driving style, climatic conditions, route characteristics and preconditioning.

Popular village has plenty to offer families



Businesses in Gobowen's village centre cater for residents' needs

MORE and more families are choosing to settle in the village of Gobowen thanks to its numerous facilities and amenities.

The village has various services to meet residents' needs including a Post Office, a primary school, convenience stores, a car repair garage, a dentist and a pharmacy.

Advertisement Feature

Gobowen also has hairdressers, a selection of takeaway food outlets, a modern golf course and a children's nursery nearby. Many residents from the village as well as further afield make regular use of Gobowen's railway station. The station is the closest mainline station to Oswestry and is served by a regular bus service. Employment opportunities are right on

the doorstep with the world famous Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital and the Derwen College within walking distance from the village centre.

Gobowen is just a short drive from Oswestry and Shrewsbury and Wrexham are within easy commuting distance. Community spirit is strong in the village and Gobowen's churches host many events while other activities are based at The Pavilion and the village's playing fields and playground.

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3 course £8.20 2 course £6.20
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The movie project Run For Your Life has won plaudits



Director Gareth Thomas with actors Joe Davies and Julia Pentz



Director Gareth Thomas gets to grips with the equipment

New film is praised

Report by Sue Austin

A FILM being shot in Oswestry has been praised by a national anti-bullying campaign.

Members of Rocking Horse Studios and one of the stars in the film Run for your Life travelled to London for talks with the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Filming has begun for trailers for Run for Your Life, which tells the story of Jess, a young girl who takes to running to escape the misery of bullying.

Filming for the feature length film will start in the next few weeks. Gareth Thomas, the man behind the project, said the Anti-Bullying Alliance had been impressed with the project, which includes filming at North Shropshire College's campus in Oswestry.

He said: "We are tackling a very serious subject but this is also a very positive film. We are really grateful to the college which has been happy to let us film here."

"One of those now involved in the filming is Caroline Brenton, who is a student here. She saw us filming, said she was interested and now she is on board."

Taking the role of the teenage Jess is 17-year-old Christie Kelly, while the younger Jess will be played by Cia Whitall, both from the Oswestry area.

"It is brilliant to have an opportunity to be involved in something like this," Christie said. "It is good fun." Mr Thomas said Christie was a "star in the making", saying that, as well as performing, she was now getting involved in the writing of the script.

"She wanted to work on the stage in future although I hope she comes back to films," he said.

He said there will be more auditions for parts in the film being held in the near future. Anyone who is interested in getting involved with Rocking Horse Studios can find its site on Facebook.



The actors are directed into position by Gareth Thomas. Photos: Jamie Ricketts.



Actors Joe Davies and Julia Pentz appear in the movie



Some of the filming has been done at North Shropshire College in Oswestry



Christie Kelly is one of the main actors in the movie



Gareth Thomas with Julia Pentz, Christie Kelly, Caroline Brenton and Joe Davies

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

19
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, February 18, 2016



Country residence is in the heart of the village

A four-bedroomed detached country residence, Bronallt, Llywnmawr near Selattyn has been tastefully extended and lies in the heart of the village in the beautiful Ceiriog Valley.

Also coming with a one-bedroomed log cabin, it is for sale through Woodhead Sales and Lettings at £579,950.

With hardwood windows and doors and solar panels it has a feature oak porch, a utility room with a sink, part tiled walls and a tiled floor, an inner hall with oak flooring, a WC, a dining room with a feature brick fireplace with a wooden mantle and

double sided log burner adjoining the living room, oak flooring and an oak staircase to first floor.

There is a kitchen/breakfast room with oak units, under lighting and granite work surfaces and a Butler-style sink, built in wine rack, larder cupboard with pull out units and a feature brick chimney with space for a 'Rayburn'-style cooker, dishwasher and an L-shaped granite breakfast bar. There is also a study/family room with oak flooring, a living room with French doors to the patio and a log burner and oak flooring, a galleried landing, a loft room currently used as a music

room, a master bedroom with built-in wardrobes and French doors, oak flooring and an en-suite bathroom with a white suite including a roll top bath and fully tiled shower cubicle. There are three further bedrooms (one with an en-suite shower room). Outside is a driveway, double garage with a staircase up to a games room and gardens with a large pond and decking with a hot tub. The log cabin has a living area, bedroom and WC and wash basin. For further information contact Woodhead Sales and Lettings on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadsalesandlettings.com



Four-bedroom property has period features throughout

This is a rare opportunity to purchase a spacious, four-bedroom, semi-detached property. Greystones Court on Shrewsbury Road is situated on the fringe of the popular market town of Oswestry. The property has period features throughout and offers flexible living accommodation including large entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, cloakroom, boiler room, cellar, four large bedrooms and family bathroom.

Externally the property is approached over a gravelled driveway leading to private gardens, patio and ample off road parking. Offers in the region of £279,500. Contact Bowen Son and Watson on 01691 652367.



Ribbon is cut to open new housing development in town

The ribbon has been cut to officially open a stylish new homes development in Oswestry. David Wilson Homes is building 65 homes at its development Montgomery Place on Morda Road and managing director John Fitzgerald was joined by sales adviser Sharon Price to cut the ribbon outside the show home. Two show homes are now open to view, the four bedroom Avondale and the three bedroom Hadley. The development features a mix of two, three, four and five bedroom homes, with spacious rooms and open-plan living areas, in a range of traditional and contemporary designs. As well as building new homes the home-builder will also be investing over £300,000 in the community. Mr Fitzgerald said: "The development is taking shape and now the show homes are open it gives visitors the chance to see the quality of the homes for themselves."



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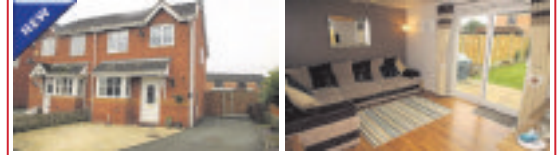
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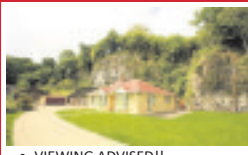
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New build is in the heart of picturesque valley

One of two new build properties in the heart of The Ceiriog Valley, Plot 1 New Houses, Dolywern, is for sale through Town & Country at £279,950. The property comprises an entrance hallway with a staircase off, a kitchen/breakfast room a good sized living room and a separate dining room with French doors out to a patio. The kitchen is fitted with a Burford cream kitchen base and wall units with complimentary tiling and work surfaces. There is a square bay window to the front. The property also has an utility, four bedrooms, master en suite, and a family bathroom. Each property has its own detached single garage with driveway providing parking for several cars and good sized rear gardens. For further information contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com



Listed property in village has six bedrooms

A listed six bedroom village property, Street House, Llandysilio near Four Crosses, has been renovated and is set in a large garden plot with a range of useful outbuildings. The property is on the market through JJ Dell & Co and has a guide price of £425,000. The home is a three storey detached residence offering spacious and adaptable accommodation and has the benefit of secondary double glazing and oil fired central heating. The property has an entrance porch, entrance hall, cellar, breakfast kitchen, utility, cloakroom and conservatory. There is also a dining room, living room, sitting room and snug. On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom and on the second floor there are a further three bedrooms and another bathroom. The property has its own private gravelled driveway, a large garden, two greenhouses, a barn/double garage, stable/store and a garage. Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212 for details.



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3 En Suite Bedrooms, 2 Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
Cellar presently used as a store and games room
Double Garage, Office, Gardens

About 1.4 acres
Guide Price £595,000

CRAVEN ARMS

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Unique coverage across Shropshire, North & Mid Wales and into Cheshire



Charles Parry Close
Oswestry £124,995

- A well maintained 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Bungalow
- Situated within a popular residential location
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room
- Inner Hallway, 2 Bedrooms and Wet Room.
- Private low maintenance rear garden
- Ample parking for two vehicles to the front
- uPVC double glazing and Gas fired C/H. EPC Rating



Fitzgwarne Drive
Whittington £224,995

- An immaculately presented 4 bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated in a sought after location in the popular village of Whittington
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Family Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom,
- Master Bedroom (en-suite), 3 further bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size rear garden, driveway and single garage
- Double glazing and gas central heating together with a burglar alarm



Mapleshurst Drive
Oswestry £129,995

- A delightful 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Situated on a good size corner plot in a quiet residential area
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Front and rear gardens with large tarmac driveway
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing
- EPC Rating D. NO CHAIN



York Street
Oswestry £114,995

- A deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Terraced House
- The property benefits from new carpets and flooring
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- 2 good size Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Lawned rear garden and small front garden
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- An ideal first time buy or investment purchase



Albert Road
Oswestry £115,000

- Deceptively spacious and fully refurbished 2 Double Bedroom Terraced House
- Newly fitted kitchen, bathroom and new carpets throughout
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Cellar, 2 Double Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Private patio and lawned garden with side pedestrian access
- Gas central heating and double are installed throughout
- NO CHAIN



Arundel Road
Oswestry £129,995

- A charming Victorian 4 Bedroom End of Terrace House
- Situated on one of Oswestry's most popular avenues
- Requires a full programme of modernisation works throughout
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Cloakroom, Cellar, 4 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Paved and lawned area to the rear
- Pedestrian access is to the side of the property



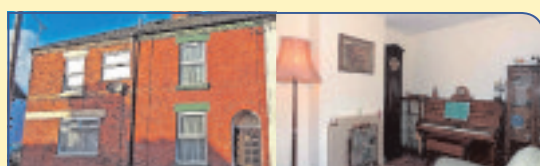
Weston Road
Morda £123,950

- Oakwood Grange is a small residential development
- Plot 1 is a spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached house
- Open plan Lounge/Kitchen, Cloakroom, 2 Bedrooms & Bathroom.
- Gas central heating and double glazing will be installed as standard
- All properties will be completed to the highest specification
- All properties will come with a 10 year warranty
- Anticipated completion late Summer 2016.



Y Ddol
Penybontfawr £144,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House situated in a popular village location.
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Living Room, Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Good size rear garden with large decked area and views over surrounding countryside.
- To the side of the property is a driveway providing ample off-road parking
- Oil central heating and double glazing. EPC rating



Castle Street
Oswestry £90,950

- Deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Terraced House
- Situated close to Oswestry town centre and all amenities.
- The property contains a host of original features
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Cellar
- Kitchen, 2 good size Bedrooms, Bathroom and Attic Room.
- Externally the property has a PRIVATE slabbed courtyard style garden
- Gas central heating and partial double glazing



Overton Road
St Martins £234,995

- 4 Double Bedroom Detached House
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall
- Sitting Room, Living Room
- Kitchen, Dining Room, Cloakroom
- 4 Beds, Family Bathroom, En-suite
- Driveway & Garage. EPC Rating D



Lloyd Street
Oswestry £127,995

- A delightful 2 Bedroom Property situated on the fringe of the town centre
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen
- Lobby leading to useful Storage Room and Cloakroom
- Two good size bedrooms and the Bathroom
- Externally the property has a good size enclosed rear garden
- Gas central heating and double glazing are installed throughout
- An ideal first time buy or investment. EPC Rating D



Liwyn Crescent
Morda £179,995

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow situated in a quiet residential area of the popular village of Morda
- The property stands on a corner plot with front, side and rear gardens
- Driveway providing ample off-road parking and garage
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms and Wet Room.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating

Bowen Son and Watson

Oswestry

01691 652367

35 Bailey Street, Oswestry. SY11 1PX
oswestry@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Ellesmere

01691 622534

Chirk

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Wrexham

01978 340000

Llangollen

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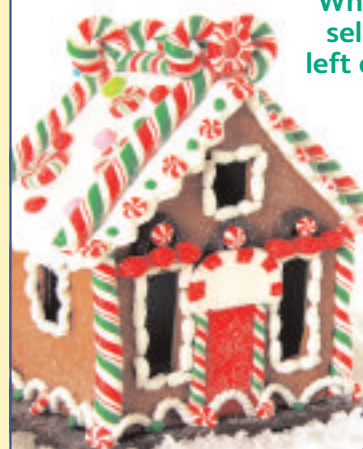
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Bowen Son and Watson has been selected as the best independent estate agent by Relocation Agent Network to represent them in **Wrexham, Oswestry, Ellesmere, Llangollen and Chirk**

Let us find your Home Sweet Home...

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As a selected member of Relocation Agent Network, we're your area's Local Expert and can guide you through the selling process this winter.

Bowen Son and Watson

At Bowen Son and Watson we place our clients first. You can expect a friendly, professional and personal service. Contact your local Bowen Son and Watson office to arrange a free market appraisal.



Superb home has been tastefully extended

A superior six-bedroomed detached village residence, 6 Offas Close, Treflach has been tastefully extended to create a truly spacious family home. It is for sale through Richmond Harvey for offers in the region of £320,000.

The property lies in a private position within this select development and is set in a generous plot. A particular feature is the delightful open plan kitchen, dining room and family room which provide excellent family living/entertaining space. This home also has potential to create a self-contained annexe.

With superfast broadband it has an entrance lobby, a reception hall, a WC, a living room and a kitchen. There is also a family room, shower room/utility, a games room, six bedrooms, a bathroom and front and rear gardens. For details contact Richmond Harvey on 01691 654222 or visit www.richmondharvey.com

RICHMOND HARVEY



Detached family home is in a popular location

Orchard House, Maesbury Marsh is a five bedroom detached family home that was built six years ago in a popular village location. It is for sale through Woodhead Sales & Lettings with a guide price of £374,950. Having enviable surrounding views of the open countryside, there are three reception rooms, a utility room, a downstairs WC, oil central heating, UPVC double glazing, double garage, off road parking and front and rear gardens. The entrance hall has under-floor heating and stairs off. The living room has under-floor heating, as does the dining room, which also has French doors out to a decked area. There is a further study with under-floor heating and a WC. The kitchen/breakfast room has tiled flooring with under-floor heating. There is also a conservatory, a utility, five bedrooms and a bathroom. For details contact Woodhead Sales and Lettings on 01691 680044 or visit www.woodheadsalesandlettings.com



J.J. DELL & Co.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

LLANDYSILIO

- Listed Six Bed. Village Property
- OFCH & Secondary DG
- Kitchen
- Four Reception Rooms
- Utility
- Large Conservatory
- Cellar
- Two Bathrooms
- Garage
- Useful Range Of Outbuildings
- EPC Band F
- JJD905

GUIDE PRICE £425,000

GOBOWEN

- Close Care Residential Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- Short Walking Distance To Office
- EPC Band - D
- JJD889

GUIDE PRICE £109,950

RHYDYCROESAU, NR. OSWESTRY

- Exceptionally Well Appointed Welsh Stone Cottage
- OFCH & UPVC D/G
- Sitting Room
- Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Separate Garaging
- Sun Room And Workshop
- Rear Terrace Garden
- EPC Band F
- JJD901

GUIDE PRICE £195,000

OSWESTRY

- Recently Refurbished End Terrace House
- Walking Distance Of Town Centre And Woodside Primary School
- GFCH & PVC D/G
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- New Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- New Bathroom
- Front And Rear Gardens
- EPC Band - D
- JJD888

GUIDE PRICE £95,000

WEST FELTON

- Fine Detached Bungalow On Outskirts Of Village
- OFCH & DG
- Living Room
- Kitchen Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Garage/Workshop & Car Port
- Good Sized Garden Plot
- EPC Band - G
- JJD883

OFFERS ON £259,500

OSWESTRY

- Victorian Terraced House
- Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- GFCH & PVC D/G
- Kitchen
- Sitting Room
- Living Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Front And Rear Gardens
- EPC Band - D
- JJD885

GUIDE PRICE £100,000

ST. MARTINS

- Detached House
- Occupying Pleasant Rural Position
- Opportunity for further improvement
- GFCH
- D/G & Secondary D/G
- Sitting Room & Living Room
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms
- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D
- JJD885

GUIDE PRICE £199,000

GOBOWEN

- Attractive Semi-Detached Bungalow Within Walking Distance Of Village Amenities
- GFCH & PVC DG
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Conservatory
- Parking
- Private Rear Garden
- EPC Band - G
- JJD891

GUIDE PRICE £143,000

PANT

- Individually designed highly appointed three bed detached house
- O/F C/H, D/G
- Lounge & Study
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Sun Room
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Children's Play Room/Fourth Bedroom
- Garage & Car Parking
- Extensive Views
- EPC Band C
- JJD782

£420,000

LLANFECHAIN

- Kitchen
- Drawing Room
- Lounge & Sun Room
- Library & Study
- Cloakroom
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Baths
- Double Garaging
- Possibility to split accommodation
- EPC Band - C
- JJD833

GUIDE PRICE £400,000

GOBOWEN

- Large Semi-Detached Victorian Family Village House
- Short Walking Distance Of Local Facilities
- GFCH & DG
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Sitting Room
- Four bedrooms
- Cellar
- Garage & Useful Outbuilding
- Good Sized Garden Plot
- EPC - Band D
- JJD899

GUIDE PRICE £215,000

OSWESTRY - BUILDING PLOT

- Good sized building plot
- Approx. 720 sq. metres
- Sought after residential area
- Permission for detached bungalow with double Garage
- Reasonable level walking distance of Town
- We understand all mains services are available to site
- JJD787

£154,750

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212





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RICS



1 Cambrian Terrace, Llanantffraid £124,950

Two bedroom end terrace house. LPG-fired central heating, double glazing. Multi-fuel stove to living room. Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Attractive enclosed rear garden with stores. On-site parking for at least one vehicle. Well maintained accommodation throughout. EPC Rating = 26 (F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



26 Cae Melin Avenue, Oswestry £127,500

Modern mid terrace house. Lounge, fitted kitchen and cloaks. Two bedrooms and bathroom. Lawned garden areas. Single garage and parking. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Available with no onward chain. EPC Rating = 83 (B)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



11 Parc Llwyfen, Llanymynech £315,000

Detached four bedroom house and garage. Two receptions, study, kitchen and utility. Family bathroom and en-suite shower. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Enclosed and well maintained rear garden. Pleasant recent established estate. Close to village amenities and A483. EPC Rating = 62 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



30 Summerfield Close, Oswestry £137,500

Semi detached on cul-de-sac. Two reception rooms, three bedrooms. Ground floor cloakroom, first floor bathroom. Gas-fired central heating, double glazing. Driveway and car-port to side. Gardens to both front and rear. Available with no onward chain. EPC Rating = 62 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Oakwood Grange, Morda - Prices From: £123,950

BRAND NEW!! Two/Three bedroom houses to be constructed on a small residential development of just 24 plots. Located on the edge of the village. PLEASE NOTE: The illustration is an artist's impression of a similar style house and is not the actual property. Anticipated completion late summer 2016. Predicted EPC = B. Reservations now being taken, contact us for further information.

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

11 Glanlledan, Welshpool £114,950



Modern Mid-Terrace House. Entrance Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Diner. 2 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Electric Heating. Fully Double Glazed. 2 Parking Spaces. Enclosed rear yard. Ideal for First Time Buyer/Investors. Within walking distance of the town centre. Energy efficiency rating = 68

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



30 Bridge Street, Llanfyllin £89,950

Two bedroom mid terrace town house. Sitting room and fitted kitchen/breakfast. Ground floor fitted bathroom. Electric storage heaters and double glazing. Enclosed gravelled rear garden. Close to all town centre amenities. Available with No Onward Chain. Energy Efficiency Rating = 44 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LET

OSWESTRY

Self-Cont G/F Bedsit, Elec/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=25) (£340 dep) £240 pcm

1 Bed 1st/Floor Flat, Elec/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=60) (£375 dep) £275 pcm

2 Bed 1st/Floor Flat, Elec/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=27) (£460 dep) £350 pcm

2 Bed End-Ter House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=49) (£470 dep) £370 pcm

GOBOWEN.

1 Bed Open Plan Flat, Elec/H. FTE, No Pets, (EER=68) (£350 dep) £250 pcm

2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=74) (£575 dep) ... £475 pcm

3 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=52) (£595 dep .. £495 pcm

3 Bed Det Bungalow, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=58) (£795 dep) £695 pcm

ELLESMERE

3 Bed Barn Conversion, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=21) (£850 dep) ... £750 pcm

LLANFYLLIN

2 Bed Mid-Ter House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EER=77) (£495 dep) ... £395 pcm

LLANSANTFFRAID

1 Bed Mid-Ter House, Elec Hg, FTE, No Pets (EER=40) (£350 dep) £350 pcm

Fees: Application Fee: £40. Lease Fee: £150

www.morrismarshall.co.uk

4 Cliff View, Llanymynech £95,000



Mid Terrace Village Cottage. Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining Room. Two Bedrooms, Bathroom. Oil Fired Heating. Double Glazed. Detached garden to rear (100 sq.m approx). Situated off the village road. Convenient to Welshpool and Oswestry. Ideal First Time Buy/Buy to Let. Energy efficiency rating = 68 (D)

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

Aberystwyth 01970 625020
Llanidloes 01686 412567

Machynlleth 01654 702472
Newtown 01686 626160

Oswestry 01691 679595
Tywyn 01654 710388

Welshpool 01938 554818
Aberdyfi (window display)



Outstanding home has six bedrooms

An outstanding six-bedroomed farmhouse with many original features, Castell Moch Fach, Llanrhaeadr has been renovated to a very high standard. Having amazing views from all aspects of the property, it is now for sale through Town & Country at £415,000. An ideal family home, the property sits on four and a half acres of land with the possibility of purchasing another three acres. There is plenty of space for off road parking for several family vehicles and there are lawned gardens that extend around the property. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, two utility rooms, a WC, landing, six bedrooms (three en-suite) and a luxury family bathroom. To the outside is a sweeping gravelled driveway up to the farmhouse and lawned gardens extending around the property. For further information contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit www.townandcountryoswestry.com



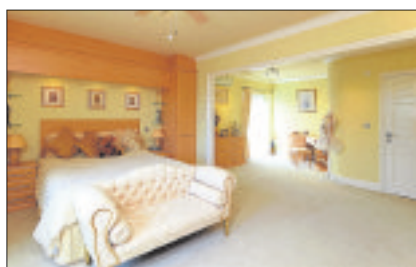
Eye-catching residence is full of charm

The Old Vicarage at Dolfor, Newtown, comprises a charming and typical example of a Victorian period ecclesiastical residence, having been constructed in approximately 1880. It is for sale for £595,000 through Halls. The accommodation offers two formal reception rooms set either side of the entrance hall, both with high ceilings and attractive bay windows. There is a further snug/study, large kitchen with pantry and rear conservatory/sun room, as well as a WC, on the ground floor. The first floor boasts five bedrooms, three with en-suite, and a family bathroom. For more details contact Halls on 01938 555552.



Detached property is in a prestigious area

This spacious four-bedroomed detached home in Hayes View, Oswestry lies on a large plot in a private cul-de-sac in one of the town's most prestigious residential areas. It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson with offers in the region of £315,000. The property has spacious and flexible living accommodation. The home's accommodation includes a porch, a large entrance hall with stairs off and under-stairs storage and there is a cloakroom. The property has a lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room and an adjoining utility area with a door leading directly into the integrated double garage. On the first floor of the property there is a master bedroom with en-suite and three other bedrooms all served by a family bathroom. For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



Magnificent home stands in landscaped gardens

Standing in landscaped grounds of around 1.5 acres, Benvenuti, Morton, Oswestry has magnificently proportioned accommodation extending to some 6,600 square feet. It is for sale through Halls at £995,000. It has a portico-style porch, a superb reception hall, a WC, a triple aspect lounge with French doors, a games room, a day room and a kitchen. There is also a back hall, a home office, a ground floor shower room, a master bedroom with fitted furniture, a dressing room with French doors out to a balcony and an en-suite, master suite two with French doors out to a balcony, fitted furniture and an en-suite, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom. There is also a laundry room, sauna, bedroom five en-suite, a second floor playroom/hobby room and a garage with remote controlled doors. Outside there are gardens and grounds including an orchard, two summer houses, a pond and two driveways. Contact Halls on 01691 670320.





Diana Baur drums up support for the protest



The campaigners went to the top of the hillfort and staged a demonstration



Youngsters Rui Phillips and James Nash at the hillfort protest



The letters HOOOH are spelt out with the image being captured by an aerial drone. Photo: Alastair Reid.

Hillfort message clearly spelt out

CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans for housing near Oswestry's ancient hillfort spelt out their message loud and clear at a special Valentine's Day event.

About 300 people took part in a "hillfort hug" on Sunday against the inclusion in Shropshire Council's SAMdev development document of new homes near the Iron Age site.

The document includes plans for 117 homes off Whittington Road in the town which opponents say will affect the setting of the landmark and views to and from the hillfort.

The campaigners stood together to spell out the letters HOOOH, standing for Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort, and the image was captured by an aerial drone.

Campaigners said they hoped the demonstration would show the public's concerns about the housing plans.

Newly elected Green Party Shropshire Council member Duncan Kerr said: "When I went around the doorsteps, people talked about this place, how special it was to them, and how con-

Report by Naomi Penrose

cerned they are that Oswestry is losing its identity and heritage.

"People aren't opposed to housing but we have land in the south east extension ready to roll, and that land is suitable for social housing rather than the executive housing at this site."

"People have come here today to say we don't accept it, and when a planning application comes before the council we will fight it."

Pip Davies, a campaign supporter, said: "We're all here today to show our love for this beautiful place."

"I've been coming here since I was young and I just feel building houses nearby will ruin the whole area."

"I know people say the houses will be away from the site but it's a sacred place. We've got to protect it, we've got to protect our heritage."

The march on the hillfort was the culmination of the hillfort hug weekend.

On Saturday there was an all-day seminar at Oswestry Memorial Hall, a drum workshop at the Hermon Chapel at lunchtime and live music at the Hermon in the evening.



Campaigners of all ages took part in the hillfort hug event



Peter Shelston and Marnie Shelston show their support



The campaigners gather to spell out their hillfort message



MOTD Live: The FA Cup

4.55pm
Bournemouth v Everton (Kick-off 5.15pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the fifth-round match from Dean Court, as the Premier League sides meet for the first time in this competition since 1937. These teams produced a six-goal thriller when they met here in the league last November.



The Ides of March

11pm
An idealistic campaign worker finds his belief in the presidential candidate he represents challenged. As rival campaign managers try to influence his loyalty, his relationship with an intern brings to light dark secrets about the politician. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney.



Take Me Out

8.30pm
Professional athlete Luke from Birmingham, David, a car mechanic from Edinburgh, Bedfordshire-based golfing coach James and Nathan, a potato-farmer from Co Down all enter the 'love lift', in the hope of impressing Paddy McGuinness's 30 single women and winning a date.



Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages

8pm
The actress learns about life in Cumbria, beginning in Coniston, a village that has tackled everything from copper mining to hill farming and high-class Victorian tourism to the speed records of Donald Campbell. Further north, Penelope meets the community buying its local mountain.



The Championship: Football League Tonight

9pm
Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship. Cardiff City played host to Brighton & Hove Albion at the Cardiff City Stadium, and Brentford faced Derby County at Griffin Park.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. Including NewsWatch at 7.45.
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** Comedienne Katherine Ryan joins James Martin to face food heaven or hell, courtesy of Theo Randall and Olia Hercules. Plus, Susie Barrie is on hand with the wine tips.
- 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts.** The chef brings many 1970s family favourites up to date, including a fresh Swiss roll and a retro prawn cocktail. (R)
- 12.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 12.10 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests preview the FA Cup fifth-round fixtures, which include Chelsea v Manchester City and Arsenal v Hull City.
- 1.00 Live Athletics: Glasgow Indoor Grand Prix.** Jonathan Edwards presents coverage of the meeting from Emirates Arena, where a host of world-class stars are expected to compete.
- 4.30 BBC News.**
- 4.45 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 4.55 MOTD Live: The FA Cup.** Bournemouth v Everton (Kick-off 5.15pm). Coverage of the fifth-round match from Dean Court, as the Premier League sides meet for the first time in this competition since 1937.
- 7.15 The Voice UK.** It's the final round of blind auditions and it's bound to be a tense time for all as the coaches fill the last few places on their teams. Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson will only want the best singers to take through to next week's battle rounds, when their acts will be pitted against each other in head-to-head knockout performances. This week's prospective stars are teenager Faith Nelson, barefoot vegan Rachel Ann, soldier Dave Barnes, hairdresser Aaron Hill and Londoner Rose Farquhar, all of whom take to the stage in the hopes of progressing to the next round of the contest.
- 8.35 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** A married couple from Wiltshire seek to win their perfect honeymoon. Plus, Pixie Lott joins Gabby Roslin for the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
- 9.25 Casualty.** Connie needs to prove her love for Grace, but has little time, and singer Hannah Spearritt returns as the mugger who attacked Noel, this time mixed up in a drugs deal.
- 10.15 BBC News; Weather.**
- 10.35 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** Dan Walker presents action from the latest FA Cup fifth-round ties, including Arsenal v Hull City at Emirates Stadium, and Watford v Leeds United at Vicarage Road.
- 11.35 FILM: Shanghai Noon (2000).** A 19th-century imperial guard to the Emperor of China is flung into the Wild West on a mission to rescue a kidnapped princess. Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson.
- 1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.25 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.00 Animal Park.** An animal escapes from its enclosure. (R)
- 7.00 FILM: This Land Is Mine (1943).** Jean Renoir's Second World War drama, starring Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara.
- 8.40 FILM: The Deadly Companions (1961).** A bank robber tries to make amends for accidentally killing a woman's son by helping her take his body to be buried. Sam Peckinpah Western, with Brian Keith and Maureen O'Hara.
- 10.10 Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Kent. (R)
- 11.10 Lobo: The Wolf That Changed America.** Why Ernest Thompson Seton wrote in praise of wolves. (R)
- 12.00 James Martin: Home Comforts.** The presenter prepares a selection of fresh dishes. (R)
- 12.45 Rick Stein's India.** The chef learns about temple cooking in the southern town of Madurai. (R)
- 1.45 Escape to the Country.** A couple search for a home in the Cotswolds. (R)
- 2.30 Big Dreams Small Spaces.** Monty Don helps amateur horticulturists transform their small plots. (R)
- 3.30 Earth's Greatest Spectacles.** Botswana's Okavango Delta. Last in the series. (R)
- 4.30 Final Score.** Round-up of football results.
- 5.15 Flog It!** Making a profit at auction in Exeter. (R)
- 5.30 Back in Time for the Weekend.** The Ashby-Hawkins family examine life in the 1970s. (R)
- 6.30 Dad's Army.** The older members of the platoon take drastic action when they are threatened with being made air-raid wardens, transforming themselves in a bid to appear younger. (R)
- 7.00 FILM: Cast Away (2000).** A courier service manager is forced to fend for himself when a plane crash leaves him stranded alone for years on a desert island. Adventure drama, with Tom Hanks and Helen Hunt.
- 9.15 Kipling's Indian Adventure.** Patrick Hennessey explores how the journey the teenage Rudyard Kipling made from Lahore to the north Indian hill station of Simla came to inform his Nobel Prize-winning literature.
- 10.15 Live at the Apollo.** Russell Kane comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing himself and introducing routines by guests Roisin Conaty and Nick Helm. (R)
- 11.00 FILM: The Ides of March (2011).** A presidential campaign worker must decide where his loyalties lie as dark secrets come to light. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney. With Ryan Gosling.
- 12.35 FILM: Surviving Summer (2009).** A teenager who witnessed her father's suicide falls in love with a cook, but her grandparents do not approve, due to his criminal past. Drama, starring Hilary Duff and Evan Ross.
- 2.00 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street 6.15** Bottom Knockers Street **6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.55 Sooty 7.05 Super 4 7.15 Looped**
- 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** Chaotic cartoon capers, voiced by Rowan Atkinson. (R)
- 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
- 8.10 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy.
- 8.30 Scrambled!: Jessie.** Disney sitcom, starring Debby Ryan.
- 9.05 Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica investigates strange happenings in Cabot Cove. (R)
- 10.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 12.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 1.30 Judge Rinder.** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
- 2.35 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Bert Shephard. (R)
- 3.35 The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 4.35 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 4.45 ITV News and Weather.**
- 5.00 FILM: Despicable Me 2 (2013).** Premiere. Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell.
- 7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** New series. The presenter duo return with their live entertainment show, with Michael Sheen serving as guest announcer, and Wet Wet Wet taking part in tonight's Singalong Live.
- 8.30 Take Me Out.** An athlete from Birmingham, a mechanic from Edinburgh, a Bedfordshire-based golfing coach and a potato-farmer from Co Down seek to win over Paddy McGuinness's 30 single women.
- 9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined in the studio by Twilight Saga star Taylor Lautner, comedy actor Rob Brydon and UK tennis star Johanna Konta.
- 10.45 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 11.00 FILM: Nutty Professor II: The Klumps (2000).** Bumbling scientist Sherman Klump tries to rid himself of his troublesome alter ego Buddy Love, but his experiment backfires. Comedy sequel, with Eddie Murphy and Janet Jackson.
- 12.55 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** Part two of two. Jessica spends her vacation in Hawaii trying to prove that fellow crime-buster Thomas Magnum is innocent of two murders. Guest-starring Tom Selleck. (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

Channel 4

- 6.15 Frostgun Invitational.** Highlights of the Frostgun Invitational from Val d'Isere, France.
- 7.05 Freeride World Tour.**
- 7.30 The Grid.** Behind the scenes of the Rolex 24.
- 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra invites her parents to Thanksgiving dinner. (R)
- 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Marie displays favouritism toward Robert. (R)
- 9.00 The Morning Line.** Racing preview from Ascot.
- 10.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Penny plans a party for Leonard. (R)
- 10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R)
- 10.55 The Big Bang Theory.** Penny becomes addicted to an online game. (R)
- 11.30 The Simpsons.** Homer becomes a submarine captain. (R)
- 12.00 The Simpsons.** Homer becomes a submarine captain. (R)
- 12.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** Coulson thinks the ATCU is hiding something.
- 1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Ascot. Haydock Park and Wincanton.
- 4.00 Come Dine with Me.** Children's food educator Beth hosts the first dinner party in Suffolk. (R)
- 4.25 Come Dine with Me.** Caravan park owner Ray hosts the second night in Lowestoft. (R)
- 5.00 Come Dine with Me.** Beautician Polly opts for a fine-dining menu on the third night in Suffolk. (R)
- 5.25 Come Dine with Me.** The fourth party of the competition in Lowestoft, Suffolk. (R)
- 6.00 Come Dine with Me.** The final dinner party in Suffolk is hosted by anti-social behaviour officer Rachel, who hopes to win over her guests with an evening of comfort food and a few tricks up her sleeve. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on a voyage of discovery through their home city of London, meeting fellow actors Andrew Sachs and Ian McKellen along the way. (R)
- 8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** The actress learns about life in Cumbria, explores areas including Coniston, Morecambe Bay and Grasmere, and meets a community buying a local mountain.
- 9.00 FILM: RoboCop (2014).** Premiere. A critically injured police officer is rebuilt as a crime-fighting cyborg, but struggles to retain free will. Sci-fi thriller remake, with Joel Kinnaman and Gary Oldman.
- 11.20 FILM: Apocalypto (2006).** A Mayan tribesman captured for human sacrifice escapes into the jungle in a bid to save his family. Mel Gibson's historical adventure, starring Rudy Youngblood and Dalia Hernandez.
- 1.50 Hollyoaks.** (R)
- 3.55 Undercover Boss USA.** (R)
- 4.45 Kirstie's Handmade Treasures.** (R)
- 4.55 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R)
- 5.50 How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig 6.05** Bananas in Pajamas **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Bob the Builder **6.45** Tickety Toc **6.55** Zack and Quack **7.05** Make Way for Noddy **7.15** Paw Patrol **7.35** Little Princess **7.45** Pip Ahoy! **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.35** Wanda and the Alien **8.45** Toby's Travelling Circus
- 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R)
- 9.30 The Saturday Show Live.**
- 11.30 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops.** (R)
- 12.00 Police Interceptors.** A late-night reveler talks himself into trouble. (R)
- 1.00 Police Interceptors.** Officers stop an uninsured driver who is known to have a violent past. (R)
- 2.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Two agents face a heartbreaking house repossession in Merseyside. (R)
- 3.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** An agent is assaulted in a doorstep confrontation. (R)
- 4.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Brian and Graham try to recover £20,000 from the owner of a health spa. (R)
- 5.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R)
- 6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R)
- 7.00 World War II in Colour.** The Allied forces' preparations for the Normandy landings, including their attempts to fool the Germans into thinking the main attack would be in the Pas de Calais. (R)
- 7.55 The Gadget Show.** Jason Bradbury, Amy Williams, Oris Daley and Jon Bentley report from CES in Las Vegas, the world's largest consumer tech show, revealing the must-have gadgets of 2016. (R)
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches in the Championship, including Cardiff City v Brighton & Hove Albion and Brentford v Derby County.
- 10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, including Barnsley v Doncaster Rovers and Barnet v AFC Wimbledon.
- 10.25 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Benson and Stabler are faced with a dilemma when a child abuse suspect offers to reveal the identity of a controversial civil rights group's leader in exchange for an amnesty. (R)
- 11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A couple are found murdered in a truck, prompting the detectives to investigate a Mexican drug cartel linked to one of the victims - but the case proves more complex than expected. (R)
- 12.15 SuperCasino.**
- 3.10 Never Teach Your Wife to Drive.** (R)
- 4.00 Police Interceptors.** (R)
- 4.50 Divine Designs.** (R)
- 5.20 HouseBusters.** (R)
- 5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)
- 5.50 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

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Call the Midwife

8pm

Poplar is rocked by a series of violent attacks on women, and a prostitute is too ashamed to report what she knows – but her actions lead to a dangerous man roaming the streets, with devastating consequences for the residents of Nonnatus House. Jenny Agutter stars.



Ski Sunday

5.15pm

Ed Leigh and Graham Bell present action from the men's downhill in Chamonix, France. Jenny Jones reports from the Winter Youth Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, and there's a profile of British snowboarder Sascha Hamm, who spends his working week in a London office.



Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands

7pm

Celebrations are held across Herot as Slean prepares for his wedding to Kela. However, an unexpected development proves more than he can cope with. Abrecan remains fixated on events in Herot and the Shieldlands, but this leads him to neglect his own people's needs.



The Secret Life of the Zoo

7pm

Documentary revealing the secret life of the animals of Chester Zoo, one of Britain's most popular zoos, using new micro-rig technology to capture the behaviour of the animals and their close relationships with their keepers. In the first episode, the zoo's Asian elephant family welcome a new arrival.



Greatest 80s Movies

10.05pm

Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop, Ferris Bueller's Day Off and Dirty Dancing. Zach Galligan shares the secrets of how the mogwai were brought to life in Gremlins. Part of Channel 5 80s Day.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
8.00 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the latest FA Cup fifth-round ties. (R)
9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00 The Big Questions. From Netherhall Sports Centre, Cambridge.
11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands. Presented by Andrew Neil.
12.00 Bargain Hunt. Two wild swimmers go up against a pair of lifeguards in Bultwh Wells. (R)
1.00 BBC News: Weather.
1.15 Songs of Praise. David Grant visits a post office church.
1.50 Lifeline. Pixie Lott presents an appeal on behalf of Cardiac Risk in the Young.
2.00 Escape to the Country. A couple with a budget of £900,000 search for a property in West Sussex. (R)
2.30 The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. Four more celebrities take on three baking-related tasks. (R)
3.30 MOTD Live: The FA Cup. Chelsea v Manchester City (Kick-off 4.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the fifth-round tie, which takes place at Stamford Bridge.
6.00 BBC News.
6.15 Midlands Today: Weather.
6.25 Dickensian. Arthur visits Fagin and acquires the services of Bill Sikes in the hope he can put a stop to the wedding, while Compeyson makes a heartfelt confession to Amelia. Last in the series.
7.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore Staffordshire, visiting a farming school and a barn owl reserve. Plus, a report on a possible treatment for an incurable tree disease. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Poplar is rocked by a series of violent attacks on women, and a prostitute is too ashamed to report what she knows. A mother tries to keep her daughter's pregnancy a secret.
9.00 The Night Manager. New series. Adaptation of John Le Carré's novel, starring Tom Hiddleston. A former soldier has a chance encounter with an arms dealer, and helps British intelligence to capture him.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Midlands Today: Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's fifth-round fixtures, which were Blackburn Rovers v West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace, and Chelsea v Manchester City.
11.15 The Super League Show: World Club Series Special. Tanya Arnold presents action from the World Club Series, featuring three matches including Leeds Rhinos v North Queensland Cowboys in the World Club Challenge from Headingley.
12.00 FILM: The Walker (2007). A male escort trying to protect a client is suspected of murdering the lover of a powerful politician's wife. Drama, with Woody Harrelson, Kristin Scott Thomas and Lauren Bacall.
1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.45 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.20 The A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter Q. (R)
7.05 The Secret History of the British Garden. Gardening over the past 100 years. Last in the series. (R)
8.05 An Island Parish. Fr Roddy receives shocking news. (R)
8.35 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the Norfolk Broads. (R)
9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Highlights of the series.
11.00 James Martin: Home Comforts. The chef cooks rapid recipes. (R)
11.45 The Best Dishes Ever. Dishes that are good to make in advance. (R)
12.15 FILM: Nicholas and Alexandra (1971). Fact-based historical drama, starring Michael Jayston.
3.15 Flog It! James Lewis and Kate Bliss value items in Stroud. (R)
3.45 Bobbleleigh and Skeleton World Championships. Action from the 2016 staging of the event in Igls, Austria.
5.15 Ski Sunday. Including action from the men's downhill in Chamonix, France.
6.00 MOTD: FA Cup 6th Round Draw. Mark Chapman presents coverage of the quarter-final draw, as the remaining eight clubs learn who they will face, with a Wembley semi-final awaiting the winners.
6.20 FILM: I Am Number Four (2011). A teenager with special powers becomes a fugitive from aliens determined to hunt him down and destroy him. Sci-fi thriller, starring Alex Pettyfer and Timothy Olyphant.
8.00 Dragons' Den. The panellists cast an eye over a recipe for ice cream that is healthier than fruit and a new design of headphones. Plus, a barrister gets a lesson in margins. Last in the series.
9.00 Let's Play Darts for Sport Relief 2016. New series. Gabby Logan hosts the pro-celebrity tournament in aid of charity. The first rounds pit Greg Davies against Jordan Stephens and Mike Tindall against Katherine Ryan.
10.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. Fact-based crime drama about the trial of former American football star and actor OJ Simpson for the murders of his wife and her friend. Cuba Gooding Jr stars. (R)
10.55 FILM: Memento (2000). A man searches for his wife's killer in spite of the short-term memory loss he sustained during the same attack. Christopher Nolan's thriller, with Guy Pearce and Carrie-Anne Moss.
12.45 FILM: The Night of the Generals (1967). A German agent goes on the trail of a murderer in occupied Warsaw, and a high-ranking general comes under suspicion. Second World War mystery, with Peter O'Toole and Omar Sharif.
3.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the Norfolk Broads. (R)
4.00 Sign Zone: Holby City. Morven makes a life-changing decision. (R)
5.00 This is BBC2. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Kocker Street 6.15** Bottom Kocker Street **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story **6.55** Sooty **7.05** Super **4 7.15** Looped
7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. Chaotic cartoon capers, voiced by Rowan Atkinson. (R)
7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
8.10 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. Animated comedy.
8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. Children are taught to survive in the wild.
9.05 Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
9.25 ITV News.
9.30 Murder, She Wrote. Jessica is suspected of espionage. (R)
10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
12.30 ITV News and Weather: Weather.
12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)
1.40 Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
2.40 Catchphrase. Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)
3.40 FILM: Live and Let Die (1973). James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.
6.00 ITV News Central: Weather.
6.15 ITV News and Weather.
6.30 Planet's Got Talent. The best and worst clips from the global Got Talent franchise, featuring a water-skiing squirrel, a stunt driver and a multi-talented beat boxer. Narrated by Warwick Davis.
7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. Slean prepares for his wedding to Kela, but an unexpected development proves more than he can cope with. Abrecan's fixation on Herot leads him to neglect his own people.
8.00 Vera. The detective investigates the murder of a fisherman whose body was found tangled up in a trawler's net, and who may have been killed as part of a family feud. Last in the series.
10.00 ITV News and Weather: Weather.
10.15 Rookies. Mark is called to help a man who has been attacked with a baseball bat, while Dan attends a near-fatal stabbing during his first solo shift. Last in the series. (R)
11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 13th round of fixtures, including Harlequins v Leicester Tigers, Bath v Wasps, and Newcastle Falcons v Northampton Saints.
12.15 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.
5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

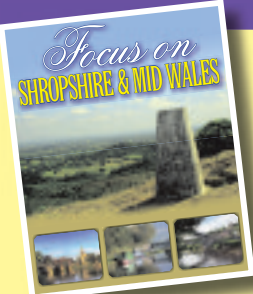
Channel 4

- 6.15 How I Met Your Mother.** Robin and Barney adjust to their new relationship. (R)
6.40 The King of Queens. Danny comes down with lockjaw. (R)
7.05 The King of Queens. Arthur enters a tournament. (R)
7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. Amy's brother seeks advice on women. (R)
8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. Debra nags Raymond to tidy up. (R)
8.30 Frasier. Part two of three. Niles awaits his operation. (R)
9.00 Frasier. Part three of three. Niles masks his fear of death. (R)
9.30 Sunday Brunch. New series. With guests David Baddiel, Melvin Odom and Rickie Haywood-Williams.
12.30 The Simpsons. Lisa uncovers an unusual fossil. (R)
1.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A couple building a home almost entirely from scrap. (R)
2.00 Location, Location, Location. House-hunting in Hertfordshire. (R)
3.05 FILM: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004). Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway.
5.20 Channel 4 News.
5.50 FILM: Dumbo (1941). Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Edward Brophy.
7.00 The Secret Life of the Zoo. Documentary revealing the secret life of the animals of Chester Zoo, using new micro-rig technology to capture the behaviour of the animals. (R)
8.00 The Jump. The celebrities compete in a mogul skiing event, with the loser of each race having to face the jump to avoid being eliminated from the series. Presented by Davina McCall.
9.00 FILM: The World's End (2013). Premiere. Five childhood friends reunite for a pub crawl in their home town, only to stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy, with Simon Pegg and Nick Frost.
11.10 FILM: The Eagle (2011). A Roman centurion and his British slave journey into the wilds of Scotland to recover the standard of a lost legion. Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.
1.10 Embarrassing Bodies: The 36-Stone Woman. The doctors catch up with Patience, who at 36 stone was morbidly obese when she first sought help with her weight, and has spent two years trying to gain control of her body. (R)
2.05 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. Former footballer Rodney Marsh hosts a dinner party. (R)
2.30 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. Lesley Joseph hosts the second party. (R)
3.00 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. Paul Ross hosts the third dinner. (R)
3.25 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. Abi Titmuss prepares an exotic five-course meal. (R)
3.50 Celebrity Come Dine with Me. Linda Lusardi hosts the final meal of the competition. (R)
4.15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Helping couples on the Wirral and in West Yorkshire. (R)
5.10 Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig 6.05** Bananas in Pajamas **6.20** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Bob the Builder **6.45** Ticky Toc **6.55** Zack and Quack **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too **7.15** Make Way for Noddy **7.25** Paw Patrol **7.40** Little Princess **7.55** Pip Ahoy! **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.45** Wanda and the Alien **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus **9.15** Jelly Jam **9.30** LazyTown
9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Shredder's new henchmen, Bebop and Rocksteady, attack the turtles. (R)
10.30 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Highlights and all the goals from the Championship. (R)
11.30 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. A round-up of all the goals from League One and League Two. (R)
12.00 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong.
12.30 Police Interceptors. The hunt for a suspected burglar takes an unexpected turn. (R)
1.30 Police Interceptors. A suspected drunk driver nearly causes a calamity. (R)
2.30 FILM: The 'Burbes (1989). Black comedy, starring Tom Hanks.
4.30 5 News Weekend.
4.35 FILM: The Money Pit (1986). Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long.
6.20 FILM: The Fox and the Hound (1981). A fox cub and a puppy become friends, but as they grow up, they realise they are expected to be enemies. Animated adventure, with the voices of Mickey Rooney and Kurt Russell. Part of Channel 5 80s Day.
8.00 FILM: Dirty Dancing (1987). A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Part of Channel 5 80s Day.
10.05 Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Part of Channel 5 80s Day. (R)
12.50 Tattoo Disasters UK. Featuring an aspiring actor with doggy ink. (R)
1.15 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.10 Never Teach Your Wife to Drive. Part two of two. Women learning the rules of the road from their partners. (R)
4.00 Wildlife SOS. The work of a wildlife sanctuary. (R)
4.25 Wildlife SOS. The work of a wildlife sanctuary. (R)
4.50 Great Artists. Profile of Leonardo da Vinci. (R)
5.15 Great Scientists. Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei. (R)
5.45 Angels of Jarm. Angel Ellie teaches a boy to just be himself at the nursery. (R)
5.50 Angels of Jarm. (R)

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Bill Nighy (Sergeant Wilson), Michael Gambon (Private Godfrey) and Blake Harrison (Private Pike) are among the all-star cast of the new film



Catherine Zeta-Jones plays a journalist and Sir Tom Courtenay is Private Jones in the 2016 revival of the favourite sitcom

A few home truths

By Karl Aston and Toby Neal

IT was an organisation that will be forever linked to catch-phrases like 'Don't panic', 'They don't like it up em', 'Stupid boy' and 'We are all doomed'.

The television series *Dad's Army* portrayed the Home Guard with affection, as a group of men wanting to do their bit for their country, but with their enthusiasm not necessarily matched by their military abilities or available weaponry.

But, of course, it wasn't like that, was it? Er, well, actually...

The brilliance of the show written by Jimmy Perry and David Croft was that it so closely reflected the reality. Perry had served in the Home Guard himself and always said he based the series on his own memories, with several of the characters directly modelled on people he had known in his platoon.

Formed in haste as the threat of invasion by the German forces became a real possibility, the Local Defence Volunteers, as they were initially called, would have defended Britain with anything they could get their hands on.

The stormtroopers would have faced a motley band of men from all walks of life armed with knives tied to broom handles to make an improvised pike. Some men, usually farmers, carried their own shotguns and numerous muskets were also raided to provide makeshift weapons. A lucky few had rifles - but little or no ammunition.

At first in those dark days of 1940 the LDV did not have uniforms, only armbands.

Tanks? No problem. These heroes would have thrown Molotov cocktails at them.

These were desperate days, and desperate measures would have been in order. The British Army had lost the bulk of its equipment at Dunkirk and naturally had precedence for re-equipping. The upshot was that the Home Guard, as the LDV was soon renamed on the insistence of Winston Churchill, received some of the most unusual and extraordinary hardware in British military history.

The Home Guard's weapons were undoubtedly dangerous, but not just to the enemy. One anti-tank weapon was the No 74 Grenade - the infamous "sticky bomb." It looked like a big toffee apple and the user was expected to dash up to the German panzer, and smash the grenade against it, which stuck to the tank through a strong adhesive. It would explode a few seconds later. Of course, it would stick to other things too - like the person carrying it. No wonder it was unpopular.

They were also equipped with some very curious heavier weapons, such as the Smith 3in gun, which had a terrifying reputation for killing its crew, and the Blacker Bombard, a spigot mortar to use against tanks, which had been rejected by the regular army.

Had the Nazis advanced as far as Shropshire, it was intended that there would have been a defence line based on the River Severn. The county also had a place in Home Guard history as the grand mansion of Stokesay



The Sentinel Works at Shrewsbury had its own Home Guard unit.



A guard at the Chatwood Safe Company Ltd, Harlescott



Boy soldier - teenage Gerald Cock



Glyn Rowlands with a Sten gun

Court at Onibury, perhaps best known now as the location for the filming of the Keira Knightley movie *Atonement*, was a major Home Guard training centre, one of only three in the country.

One of Shrewsbury's brave Home Guard defenders would have been the teenage Glyn Rowlands, who is now 89 and lives in Welshpool.

As German tanks advanced on the town's northern perimeter, he would have grabbed a Blacker Bombard, loaded it up in the square carrier on the front of his father's tradesman's bicycle, and pedalled to its firing position at the junction of Berwick Road.

But as he only had three anti-tank projectiles, he would have been in a spot of bother if the Germans were attacking with four or more tanks.

Glyn had become an enthusiastic recruit to the Shrewsbury Home Guard in 1942, although being only 16, he was under age. He was typical of the age extremes of the organ-

isation, the younger members of which were teenagers still too young to go into the regular armed services, who would rub shoulders with veterans of the Great War keen to do their bit in their country's hour of need. Others were in reserved occupations which meant their jobs were of strategic importance, making them ineligible for the regular armed forces.

Proficient

By the time Glyn joined the Home Guard it was better equipped and a more proficient military force. He said the 1st Battalion of the Shropshire Home Guard had its headquarters at the Drill Hall, Coleham.

It comprised six companies, A to F, each company of which comprised three platoons of up to 20 men in each.

He was in E Company - the Coton Hill Company which covered the patch from Shelton Rough in the west, to Hencote in the north east.

"The Corporation Lane platoon was based at Coton Hill Farm, which was my home at the time. Outbuildings and the farmhouse were used to store materials, arms and ammunition.

"Parades of the full E company were held on the main entrance to the West Midlands Showground at monthly intervals to receive orders, instructions and so on.

"The company was commanded by Major Makey who had seen service in the First World War. He was the chief clerk at the Alliance Insurance Company in the Square, Shrewsbury.

"The Company sergeant major was Jack Stone, from Greenfields, and he had seen service as a regular with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

"The Corporation Lane platoon was commanded by Lieutenant Cole who had a painting and decorating business at the bottom of Wyle Cop. His second in command was Sergeant Jack North, who lived on Swan Hill opposite County Police Headquarters. His son John North was

a particularly good friend of mine and he eventually joined the Fleet Air Arm," he recalled. The troops were trained on the Lewis machine gun, the Sten gun, the Thompson sub-machine gun (the famous Tommy gun), American .30 rifles, grenades, and the Blacker Bombard, on which Mr Rowlands went on a course on a range at RAF Bobbington, near Bridgnorth, and received a certificate of proficiency.

"It was a weekend course and I did fire it. It was quite frightening, the bang when it went off. The Blacker Bombard had to have a substantial concrete base with a stainless steel pivot on top to rest the weapon. The concrete base for our local weapon was positioned at the junction of Berwick Road and the lane to the West Mid Showground with the intention of attacking tanks or vehicles advancing on Shrewsbury from the Baschurch direction. It would probably have been some use with the first tank, after that I don't think it would have had much chance."

Gerald Cock was a baker's son from Bayston Hill and another teenage Home Guard soldier, who added a year to his age to join.

"Our Company was attached to the 4th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry and consisted of farmers, farmworkers, business people and various other characters," he was to recall.

Called

"One of our members was an old colonel named Colonel Gattager. He was about 70 and too old to go into the Army but he decided that he would try and do his bit and he came to join our parades.

"Two of our sergeants had been in the First World War and they still addressed the old colonel, although he was now only a private, as 'Yes, Colonel' and always called him 'sir'. The old boy always turned up with a cape on and his 12-bore shotgun, but after about two years they decided even he was too old to be a member of the Home Guard and reluctantly he had to give it up."

The organisation had been formed in May 1940 as an unstoppable Nazi tide swept across Europe, and the call was for men aged from 17 to 65 to come forward to repel any invasion.

The government expected 150,000 volunteers to join, but the first wave of recruits was 250,000 and by the end of June 1940 one and a half million had signed up.

Once the imminent threat of a German invasion had passed, the Home Guard remained in existence manning guard posts and performing other duties that freed up regular troops for duties overseas. Aside from deaths in accidents, the Home Guard lost a total of 1,206 members on duty to air and rocket attacks during the war. Following the successful D-Day landings in 1944 the need for the Home Guard had passed and they were formally stood down on December 31, 1945.

It cannot be denied, of course, that it had been a serious business. But nor can it be denied that there was a richly comic undercurrent, something appreciated even at the time by those involved.

Dad's Army worked so well because it rang so true.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

deaths

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Family Announcements

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If by fax or email, please remember to include an address and contact number.

COOPER

Alan James

Of Leegomery Road, Wellington.

Died suddenly on February 13, 2016, aged 70 years.

Lifetime love of Jan, wonderful loving Father of Cathy, Kate, Claire and Becky, adored by his Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.

Respected Educationalist, Mentor, leader and Friend to many.

Funeral Service 9am, Thursday, February 25, at Telford Crematorium.

Family flowers only by request but if desired donations, which will be divided between Relate (Shropshire) and Kidney Research UK, would be appreciated and may be given via the collection box at the Crematorium, or alternatively at

www.williamsfunerals.com

Inquiries to

The C.J. Williams Funeral Service
Angel House, Brinkley Bank, Telford
Telephone: 01952 505335

HILL

Collingwood Leslie George

(Colin)

Of Maestermyn Marina.

Passed away at home, on January 22, 2016, aged 82 years.

A much loved Husband, Father and Grandfather.

Funeral Service at St Andrew's Parish Church, Welsh Frankton on Tuesday, February 23, at 2pm, followed by Interment in the Churchyard.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

KAYE

Ronnie

(Bomber)

Of Kinnerley.

Passed away peacefully on February 6, 2016, at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, aged 67 years.

Loving Husband of Sue. Much loved Dad of Lorraine and Joanne, Father-in-law of Paul and Kevin, Grandfather of Charlotte, Jamie, Emily, Ben, Kira and Great-Grandfather of Bailey and Ava, dear Brother of Myra and Brenda.

He will be sorely missed by all his Family and many Friends.

Funeral Service at St. Mary's Church, Kinnerley on Saturday, February 20, at 11am, followed by Interment in the Churchyard.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Hope House Children's Hospice.

Inquiries to

W.E. PRICE

Funeral Directors

Salop Road,

Oswestry.

Telephone 01691 652995.

WILLIAMS

Betty

Formerly of Abraham Court, Oswestry.

Passed away peacefully on January 31, 2016, at The Court Nursing Home, West Felton, aged 92 years.

A much loved Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother.

Cremation at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham on Tuesday, February 23, 10.30am, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Christ Church, Oswestry, at 12 noon.

Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Christ Church URC/PCW.

Inquiries to

W.E. PRICE

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Telephone 01691 652995.

acknowledgements

LOWE

George Bryan

(Joe)

The Family wish to thank everyone who attended the Funeral for their kind messages of sympathy and donations, which are gratefully received and acknowledged.

Special thanks to Reverend David North for the lovely Service and Michael Philby for providing a first class venue and refreshments.

Thanks also to David Davies & Sons Funeral Directors.

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XC90 sets new standards

By Graham Breeze

If like me you are bamboozled by the new technology sweeping the motoring world these days the new Volvo XC90 T8 Twin Engine may not be up your street.

But on the other hand if iPhones, iPads, The Cloud and Apps do it for you then this might be just the seven-seater SUV you have been looking for, as it sets new standards in intuitive technology and safety levels.

But it's not just high-tech instrumentation that puts the XC90 in the picture as a major player in the busy SUV sector.

This is a car of huge significance for Volvo because it's the first entirely new Hybrid built on an all-new platform and demonstrates the Swedish company's new design direction.



Quite simply this isn't like any other Volvo we've known. It's a two litre petrol hybrid with a top speed of 140mph and 0-60mph in just 5.3 seconds. Add CO2 emissions of just 49g/km and possible, and I mean possible, combined fuel economy figures of 134.5mpg and you're talking different league.

There are other engines on offer – a D5 diesel and a T6 petrol, but the twin-engine hybrid is easily the most interesting, particularly to the fleet buyer and driver where tax benefits are key. After all there's a BIK rating of just five per cent which means companies could gain as much as £11,470 Corporation Tax relief.

Technology

It has a stunning new appearance and the top-of-the-range T8 Twin Inscription on test came complete with soft leather interior, Scandinavian wood finish and even crystal glass.

There's plenty to talk about but you just have to return to the levels of technology and the intuitive interface which make this Volvo so impressive. Volvo call it a Human Machine Interface and it is truly class-leading with a 12.3inch central display touchscreen combined with an intelligent voice control system.

Connectivity levels are simply mind blowing with access to a huge range of cloud based Apps via the standard built-in modem, which can be upgraded with a SIM card with a mobile data allowance.

You can then use this internet connection to keep passengers amused on their mobile devices on long journeys by creating a WiFi hotspot.

And then there's the ability to use Apple Car Play meaning you can use the benefits of an Apple Phone via touchscreen, voice control or the steering wheel controls. It's way out of my league.



.....
Connectivity values are simply mind blowing with access to a huge range of cloud based Apps
.....

Volvo claim the XC90 is the safest model it has ever built and boast the most comprehensive and technologically sophisticated standard safety package in the industry. World-firsts include Run Off Road Protection, which automatically tightens front seatbelts and Auto Brakes at junctions.

There is a price to pay of course and the range topper on test included a £5,000 option pack which pushed the on-the-road

ticket up to £69,055. That's serious money by any standards.

Opposition in sector includes BMW X5, Audi Q7, Mercedes CLE-Class and Land Rover Discovery.

Volvo sales see them sitting eighth in sector during 2015 and the target is to move up to fifth in 2016.

You'd have to say they stand a good chance because this Volvo could soon be taking on Range Rover too.

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13	VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE Grey, 14,000 miles	SOLD
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09	VAUXHALL INGENIA 2.0 CDTi, Black, High Mileage	£4995
09	FAT BRAYO 1.4 Dynamic, 5 door, Silver, Alloys	£4995
09	FORD FIESTA ZETEC Climate, 3 door, bronze metallic	£3995
07	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 i16, Black, Alloys	£3995
06	MERCEDES A180 CDI CLASSIC SE Diesel, Silver	£2995
06	VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£3995
06	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO HDi Diesel, Silver, FSH	£2195

55	PEUGEOT 307 XSI 2.0 HDi Diesel, Bronze Met, Leather	£2995
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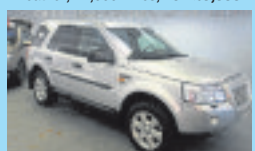
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2006 06	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 CABRIOLET Blue Metallic, 61,500 miles, A/C, Alloy Wheels	£2,999
2009 09	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 3-door, Metallic Blue, 61,000 miles.....	£3,999
2012 12	PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HdI ACCESS 5-door Manual. Metallic Grey, £30 a year Road Tax, 50,000 miles	£6,499
2011 61	PEUGEOT BIPPER HdI Diesel Van. Silver Metallic, Side Loading Door, One Owner, 49,800 miles.....	£4,999+VAT
2011 61	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi ESTATE Tom Tom, Manual, Metallic Red, 40,000 miles, 1 Owner	£6,999
2010 10	RENAULT GRANDE SCENIC 1.5 DCi 7 Seater, Manual, Metallic Red, 28,000 miles, FSH.....	£6,999
2012 12	SEAT ALTEA XLL 2.0 SE TDi Estate, Grey Metallic, One Owner, 22,3000 miles, FSH.....	£9,999
2009 59	SEAT IBIZA SPORT 1.6 Automatic 3-door. Blue Metallic, One Owner, Only 16,000 miles	SOLD
2012 12	SKODA FABIA 1.2 SE 5-door Manual. Metallic Black, 38,000 miles, FSH	£5,499
2012 12	SKODA FABIA 1.6 ELEGANCE Diesel Estate Manual. 28,000 miles, FSH.....	£7,499
2012 12	VAUXHALL ANTARA CDTi 4x4 EXCLUSIVE Manual. Champagne Metallic, 34,000 miles, FSH	£9,999
2012 62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN. Manual, Bright Red, 1 Owner, 7 Seats, 29,000 miles	£8,999
2012 62	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SE Saloon Manual, In White, 34,000 miles, FSH.....	£8,499
2013 63	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SRI 3 Door, Black Metallic, 13,000 miles, Sat Nav, FSH	£6,999
2010 60	VW POLO 1.2 SE 3-door, Blue, 44,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2010 60	VW POLO 1.2 SE 3-door. Blue, 44,000 miles, FSH	£5,999
2012 12	VW PASSAT 2.0 TDi Bluemotion Auto 4-door. Silver Metallic, 16,900 miles, FSH, Cruise Control.....	£12,499
2008 08	VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi SE Estate, Red Metallic, 6 Speed Manual, 47,000 miles, Privacy Glass, Roof Rails, 47,000 miles.....	SOLD



2013 63 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4
SRI 3 Door, Black Metallic, 13,000
miles, Sat Nav, FSH £6,999



2012 12 VAUXHALL ANTARA CDTi
4x4 EXCLUSIVE Manual. Champagne
Metallic, 34,000 miles, FSH £9,999



2013 63 CITROEN DS3 Dstyle Plus 1.6,
1 Owner, Bright Yellow Manual,
12,000 miles, FSH £8999



2006 06 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3 TDV6 2.7
MANUAL, Full Leather, Silver Metallic,
FSH **SOLD**



2009 59 LANDROVER DISCOVERY4 V6 3.0XS
AUTO Grey Metallic, Full Leather, Sat Nav,
Bluetooth, FSH, 64,000 miles £22,999



2012 62 FIAT 500 COLOUR
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Brown, 1 Owner, 18,000 miles £6,499



2012 62 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE
DYNAMIC 4x4 with Lux Pack. Light Green
Metallic, Fully Loaded, 20,000 miles £31,999



2012 12 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi
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34,000 miles, FSH £8,499



2010 10 LANDROVER FREELANDER 2
GS MK4 MANUAL Silver Metallic, FSH,
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XJ—best in driving class

By John Griffiths

Grace and pace are the two concepts which most people associate with Jaguar and for decades the XJ name has symbolised the maker's philosophy.

It's about power and potential without being crass, a serious performer in the sports saloon mould with sleek, coupe looks and a luxurious interior.

That's particular true of the shapely XJ model which was not so much an evolution but a revolution after its rather conservative, pre 2010 predecessor.

Now Jaguar has raised its game again with a range of subtle styling updates, a more powerful but also more efficient engine, and new technology in the field of in-car entertainment and computing that at least matches anything on the market.

Prices for this newly-launched 2016 model start from £58,600 for the 'standard' car, with the limousine-roomy long wheelbase models starting at £61,690.

There are V6 and V8 petrol models with power ranging from 340 to 550PS which are essential for some of Jaguar's overseas markets, but it's likely that the majority of British buyers will opt for the 3.0 litre V6 turbo,

Character

Even if you're not into the technical stuff, you will appreciate just how much this power plant influences the whole character of the car: rapid, powerful and yet so very refined.

For the 2016 model power is up from 275 to 300PS and torque from 600 to 700 Newtonmetres – to put that in context that's more than a third greater than the 5.0 litre V8 petrol motor.

That means instant pulling power from the word go.

Motorway cruising at 70mph is achieved with just 1,400rpm on the tachometer, the engine barely above tickover and virtually silent to those in the cabin.

That, of course, is helped by the very responsive eight-speed automatic transmission – with more ratios to suit varying conditions, the V6 performs without ever having to rev hard, adding to refinement and aiding economy.

When called upon it will take off in close to

supercar fashion – 0 to 62pm is achieved in 5.9 seconds and in-gear acceleration for overtaking is equally convincing.

Yet despite the power increase the new XJ is more economical, cleaner and tax efficient: official figures credit it with an average of 49.6mpg and 149g/km of Co2.

Unlike many of its premium competitors, the XJ looks like a sleek sports coupe, in spite of its size. The sloping roof may slightly reduce headroom in the rear but it's unlikely anyone but the tallest of passengers will notice.

Changes to the exterior of the latest model are subtle: They include a larger, more upright grille, new LED headlamps and a stylised 'J' design for the daytime running lights and tail lights, plus sculpted chrome blades in the out-board air intakes.

Luxury

Opulent is the best word to describe the interior, which has gone up a grade across the range with a new flagship of ultra luxury, the Autobiography, which is a trim level only available on the long wheel base models at £80,250 for the V6 diesel and £100,000 for the V8 petrol.

The test car was the middle of the range XJ R-Sport costing £70,975.

Open the door and you are faced with superb soft grain leather sports seats – both they and the rear seats can be heated or cooled according to your needs.

They are surrounded by interior trim of stitched leather, fine veneers and chromed switchgear, while the centre console is dominated by Jaguar's new, state-of-the-art touchscreen infotainment system. Apart from a TV system to beam pictures to rear seat passengers (where fitted) it also controls the premium sound system and connectivity can be linked to smart phones, to customise and add extra features.

The navigation system is one of the most advanced I've ever used. You can, for example, download pre-planned routes, and there's a 'dead reckoning' function which will keep you on track even if you lose satellite reception.

For such a large car, the XJ is surprisingly agile, further underlining its sporting credentials. The XJ now has an electric, instead of hydraulic, power steering system which makes it feel more responsive, and capable of filtering out potential steering disturbances on poor road surfaces.



.....
Jaguar has raised its game again with a range of subtle styling updates, a more powerful but also more efficient engine, and new technology
.....

It's another small but significant fuel-saver, too, and has allowed Jaguar to fit a new semi-autonomous parking system – ultrasonic sensors will measure the space and the car will manoeuvre itself into it.

As you'd expect, the XJ is packed with electronic aids for the driver and improved safety, from stability control tottraffic sign recognition, and from brake assist to blind spot and 'closing vehicle' alerts with its own radar system.

While electronic systems such as stability and traction controls have largely resolved the concerns some drivers may still have about powerful rear wheel drive cars, Jaguar has gone further still with its new 'All-Surface Progress Control. This Jaguar innovation allows

drivers to pull away smoothly and without drama on slippery surfaces such as snow, ice and wet grass.

Cruise control, a speed limiter, self-levelling air suspension at the rear, front and rear parking aids and an remote opening boot lid are also on a very long lit of standard equipment.

The XJ offers something genuinely different in this exclusive area of the market and with this new model Jaguar is building on its core strengths.

More power, more luxury and refinement and the latest technology in a car which offers possibly the best driving experience in its class – at the same time as saving you money at the pumps and on your tax bill.

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09 VW GOLF SE TdI, SILVER, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 58K.....	£7,405	COMMERCIALS PLUS VAT	
08 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA D55 4x4, GREY, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 41K.....	£7,250	60 MERCEDES SPRINTER CDI LWB, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY 125K.....	£7,995
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06 FIAT 500 LOUNGE, GREY, SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 25K.....	£5,995	10 TRANSIT T280, WHITE, ONE OWNER, AIR CON, SLIDING DOOR, SERVICE HISTORY 50K.....	£7,290
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12 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1.2, 5 DOOR, MET. RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 42K.....	£5,495	10 VW CADDY C20 PLUS SDBL, BLUE, ONE OWNER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 44K.....	£4,995
59 HONDA JAZZ 1-VTEC ES, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 33K.....	£5,350	60 PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ROOF RACK, METAL SHELVEING IN REAR, SERVICE HISTORY 68K.....	£4,295
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2012 12	FIAT 500 LOUNGE IN WHITE 12000 MILES	£5,950
2004 04	FORD STREET KA IN RED, LEATHER, ALLOYS	£2,495
2005 55	MERCEDES E320 CDI IN SILVER, ACC, LEATHER, FSH	£5,995
2007 57	PEUGEOT 207 GT 3DR IN RED, PAN ROOF, 56,000 MILES	£3,995
2007 57	NISSAN 2.5 CDI PATHFINDER ADVENTURA IN SILVER, BLACK LEATHER, A/C, ALLOYS, REAR CAMERA, TOW BAR, SAT NAV, BLUE TOOTH	£7995
2005 05	TOYOTA COROLLA 1.4 COLOUR COLLECTION, S/H	£2,250
2009 59	TOYOTA YARIS 1.4 D-4D TR 38,500 MILES, IN RED, SERVICE HISTORY	£6,250
2010 10	PEUGEOT 207 HDI SPORT 1.6 IN BLACK, ALLOYS, AIR/CON	£3,495
2009 59	CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.4 VTR+ IN MET BLUE 48000 MILES, ALLOYS, AIR/CON	£5,250
2003 03	TOYOTA MR2 1.8 IN MET BLUE, ALLOYS, 93,000 MILES	£2,250
2005 55	MITSUBISHI PINNIN WARRIOR 5DR IN SILVER 66000 MILES	£2,995
2011 61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 TDI VAN IN SILVER, 70,000 MILES	£2,995
2011 11	SKODA FABIA 1.6 TDI CR 5DR IN MET GREY, AIR/CON, 30,000 MILES	£5750
2011 11	AUDI A6 2.0 SLINE 170 BHP GREY MET PAINT BLACK LEATHER 70000 MILES 19 INCH ALLOYS	£12,995
2004 54	LANDROVER TD5 110 COUNTY IN MET GREEN 47000 MILES	£90A
2011	MINI ONE 1.4 ALLOYS AIR CON, 63000 MILES	£4,995
2011	BESSACARR E435 5 BERTH MOTOR HOME, IN WHITE 39000 MILES	£27,500
2007 07	AUDI A3 SE 1.6 AUTO, BLUE MET BLUE LEATHER ACC SREVICE HISTORY	£4,495
2009 59	RANGE ROVER VOGUE TDV8 AUTO IN BLACK SERVICE HISTORY	£16,995
2003 53	LANDROVER 90 TD IN SILVER BLACK ROOF, ALLOYS	£90A
2013 13	MINI COUNTRYMAN 20 D ALL WHEEL DRIVE AUTO IN BLACK 9000 MILES	£16,750
2010 60	BMW 120 D M SPORT AUTO MET BLUE, 78000 MILES	£8,995
2013 13	CITROEN DISPATCH ENTERPRIZE IN SILVER 37000 MILES	£7,500+VAT
2007 07	MINI COOPER 1.6 56000 MILES IN GREY HALF LEATHER, ALLOYS, A/C	£5,495

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TDI BLUEMOTION TECH S**
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ALLOYS, CD PLAYER, AIR
CON, POWER STEERING,
ELECTRIC WINDOWS,
EXCELLENT MPG,
IMMACULATE CONDITION



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123	Forton Cricket Club B	18		
122	Lamb	18		
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122	Childs Ercall Club	18		
122	Newport Bowling Club A	18		
116	Wheat-shear Wasps	18		
101	Newport Bowling Club B	18		
99	Horseshoes	18		
78	Fordham Cricket Club	18		



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Ladies are derailed by Crewe in rare defeat

OSWESTRY LADIES suffered their first defeat in eight outings when being edged out 2-1 at Crewe Vagrants II in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two.

The border side had gone into the encounter in good shape after four wins had been followed by three draws, but a weakened line-up returned with nothing to show for their efforts as they remain sixth in the table.

They have no action on Saturday due to the half term break, before returning to duty away to Chester Ladies the following week when they hope to have a full squad at their disposal.

A depleted Oswestry side travelled to Crewe with only 10 players available following the injuries sustained in the previous week's goalless draw against Deeside Ramblers.

But the players rose to the challenge brilliantly and put in a real team performance, taking the lead before being unfortunate to come away with a defeat.

While Crewe were trying to stretch the game to take advantage of their extra player, Oswestry held up well, and were also able to use the width well when attacking.

They were not without chances, and it was testament to the team how dangerous they were when they had the ball and were attacking.

The team worked together to cover the whole pitch, and, after going 2-1 down in the first half, stayed strong so that remained the score at the end of the game.

The fitness demonstrated was pleasing as the players continued to match Crewe who had numerous substitutes.

While the result was not one that they wanted, there were plenty of positives in the circumstances, and Oswestry could be proud of how they acquitted themselves with a player short.

Ties delayed but Cup draw goes ahead

ALTHOUGH several ties have still to be completed, the draw for the quarter-finals of the Central Wales Challenge Cup has been made.

The winners of the tie between Guilsfield and Penrhynoch will go on to tackle Abermule, Llanfair United or Bow Street, while Llansantffraid Village or Carno will play Aberaeron or Builth Wells.

Berriew or Llanidloes Town will face the winners of the tie between Machynlleth and Llanrhaeadr.

The Rhiewsidars' fourth round tie with the Daffs was postponed on Tuesday evening and has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 1.

Meanwhile Aberystwyth University or Hay St Marys have been paired with Cardigan Town, Forden United or Kerry.

The draw for the semi-finals of the Emrys Morgan Cup has also been made, with the winners of the tie between Dewi Stars or Brecon to face Llanfair United or Crannog.

In the other end of the draw holders Cardigan Town, Lampeter Town or Llandrindod Wells Reserves will play Guilsfield Reserves or Llandysul in the semi-finals.

Henlle Park golf returns

Club Bowmaker Competition: 1 M Hatton, R Hatton & N Durban 88pts, 2 J Bostock, S Roberts & I Griffiths 84pts, 3 M Higginson, D Evans & J M Evans 82pts.

Ladies Waltz Competition: 1 Beryl Aubrey, Viv Davies & Beth Pritchard 37pts c/b, 2 Kathy Evans, Doreen Nicol & Mel Shelton 37pts.

Seniors 234 Competition: 1 John Thomas, Andy Hardy, Ali Wright & John Postle 93pts, 2 John Bostock, John B Evans, Clive Vernal & Albert Davies 91pts.

Pairs Stableford: 1 P Price & P Jones 76pts, 2 Jack Harris & Ryan Morris 69pts, 3 Rex Tattersall & Rob Grindley 66pts.

Seniors Texas Scramble: 1 Geoff Bellis, Julian Cheetham & George Nicol 24.5pts, 2 Tommy Teiford, Mike Aubrey & Terry Dodd 24.5pts, 3 Arnie Elwin, Fred Woolnough & Colin Chare 25.5pts.

Golfers put on their Sunday best

WELSHPOOL'S golfers were in fine form in the Mail On Sunday competition on Sunday with the team of Dan Stevens, Jon Gamble, Keith Morris, Graham Hughes, Harry Bowen and Mark Fletcher winning three matches to two.

The sixth round of the club's winter league competition was won by Mike Williams (7) on count-back over the last six holes with 26 points, from Steve Trow (12) also with 26 points. Coming a close 3rd was Dave Pretty (17) with 25 points.

On Sunday, the Rabbits and Tigers was played as a four ball better ball bogey. From just 12 holes Steve Morris (17) and Ian Cadwallader (21) combined a score of plus 10 Mark Roberts (17) and Harold Norris (22) just behind on plus 9. Third place was taken on count-back over the last six holes by Richard Templeton (5) and Rob Williams (24) with a score of plus 7.

During the week the senior members of Welshpool were finally rewarded with some fine sunny weather

and two rounds of the winter league were played in bright sunshine. Club captain, John Morley (21) won Tuesday's encounter, beating Maggie Cadwallader on count-back with 26 points. Ritchie Amyes (25) came 3rd with 24 points.

Thursday 's round was a close-run thing with five players coming in with 25 points. After extensive count-back calculations the winner was Derrick Arthur (22) with Graham Moss (14) coming 2nd and the club vice captain, Phil Constable (12) third.

Good weekend for high-flying Eagles

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

ON-SONG Oswestry preserved their three point lead at the top of the Cheshire South with a crucial 26-10 bonus point success in a potentially hazardous trip to Marple.

As well as maintaining pole position from the Manchester Medics, victory also saw the Eagles open up a 10-point advantage on third placed Vagabonds, who defeated promotion rivals Dukinfield.

The league leaders made the trek to their Cheshire opponents expecting a stern challenge having not won at Marple for a couple of seasons.

The game began with the big Marple boys soon on the attack as they tested their visitors with big rucks, fast ball and plenty of penalties in a purposeful start.

But the Eagles' defence stood firm and resolute, with fly-half Fin Grogan clearing the ball time and again, and scrum-half Hamish Fuller urging on the forwards.

The visitors soon showed their attacking prowess when Zac Baldwin and Ivor Hughes chased the ball down the wing, Baldwin picking up a difficult ball before offloading to Hughes who sped over for an unconverted try.

With the referee continually blowing the whistle, Marple soon reduced the arrears with a penalty after putting pressure on the men from the border from their next attack.

Oswestry, however, were now starting to get into their stride, shaking off the cobwebs from the journey as they started to put the pressure back on Marple.

Despite provocation from the home fans, they kept their discipline to prove just why they are top of this Cheshire South League. And a second touchdown arrived when full back Luca Owen-Youens launched one of his runs with Baldwin and his forwards supporting any breakdown.

And then, out of nowhere, Baldwin darted through the shaky Marple defence and dived over the try line triumphantly for another unconverted score for a 10-3 advantage.

Dazed defence

The home side, however, were up for the battle in front of their home support, and were back on terms at the interval when a good move saw them prise open the Oswestry defence to go over in the corner with the conversion successful.

The Eagles knew they had to up the game in the second half, but had plenty in the tank as they were forced into a change with Ivor Hughes coming off and Nick Clay replacing him on the wing. The half could hardly have started much better for the visitors when, straight from the Marple kick off, Owen-Youens caught the ball and launched a powerful run at full speed through the dazed defence, handing off three players and running through the final man to touch down after just 30 seconds.

The conversion was missed, but Os were now 15-10 up, and had an advantage they were not looking to relinquish.

The Eagles were now in full swing and could have added more scores had it not been for spoiling tactics from Marple. But the Oswestry machine took the hosts to task with superb rucking and mauling from the forwards, who provided quick ball to the backs to mesmerise the defence.

Once again, the partnership of flanker Baldwin and fullback Owen-Youens proved decisive in a breakdown near the Marple line, with Owen-Youens calmly picking up for a fourth try, and a bonus point. More pressure saw them extend the advantage with two penalties from the boot of Grogan to complete a 26-10 success to keep the Eagles flying high, and looking to keep up the winning run at Heaton Moor on Saturday.

OSWESTRY II suffered their third straight defeat in the North West League division four (south) after being beaten 43-15 against high flying Holmes Chapel.

Olympians sign off season in style



The Oswestry Olympians ladies side finished in second in the Masters category

OSWESTRY Olympians were out in force to record some of the best results in the club's history in the finale of the North Wales Country League.

The runners made light of a muddy and windswept course to put in some impressive team and individual performances, with the club's men securing overall victory in the Male Masters and second in division one.

The Ladies were not to be outdone, finishing runners-up in the Ladies Masters and also second in division one.

Their overall efforts earned the men and the ladies the combined team prize, while Alison Lavender was the first lady overall in the league.

The club thanked all the supporters and marshals who have helped make it a memorable season of the Olympians.

Results

Men

Fourth senior men overall - Peter Butler; third Male Master O40 - Tim Tensley; second Male Master O60 - Steve Roberts; first Male Master O65 - Alec White.

Ladies

First Lady - Alison Lavender; second Ladies Master O35 - Lou Williams; second Ladies Master O40 - Jacqui Gears; first Ladies Master O55 - Susie Hancock; first Ladies Master O60 - Barbara Ward.



The Oswestry men's side who won the Male Masters and were second in division one

Llan fight back but suffer late goal setback

LLANRHAEDR lost ground in their Spar Mid Wales League division one challenge after being pegged back by a last-minute strike in their 3-3 draw away to Machynlleth.

The villagers had made a poor start to trail 2-0 after 10 minutes, before staging a spirited fightback.

Tom Evans fired one back after latching onto a pass from Iwan Matthews who then levelled right on half-time after a terrific run by Chris Aitken.

Llan were ahead eight minutes after the break when Evans netted his second from a Wayne Austin pass, while Matthews also hit the post after the break

Both sides were reduced to 10 men following a skirmish, with Wayne Austin seeing red for the visitors, before Mach hit back in the last minute to level with a fine strike from outside the box.

Waterloo Rovers went down 3-1 at Bow Street whose Ifan Burrell netted twice, with John James getting their other. Ian McLeod responded for the visitors.

Welshpool succumbed 3-0 at home to title chasing Carno while at the other end of the table struggling Montgomery slipped deeper into the basement mire after being hammered 6-0 at Aberaeron.

Llanidloes Town were downed 5-3 at home to mid-table rivals Hay St Mary's who took charge with a four-goal blast in the first half.

In division two, title chasing Aberystwyth University were rocked after suffering 4-1 home loss to Radnor Valley.

Four Crosses, who are slowing edging their way up the second division table, picked up another point with a 1-1 draw at basement rivals Bont.

However, prospects are not looking so good for Dyffryn Banw whose slump continued with a 2-1 reverse at Presteigne to slip to second from bottom in the table.

Elsewhere, Abermule notched a 2-1 win at Builth Wells, while Churchstoke were 3-2 home winners against struggling Penybont.

Berriew were again frustrated as their trip to Borth United in the quarter-final of the ER Jenkins Cup was postponed.

There were no such problems for second division promotion rivals Kerry who brushed aside Bettws 6-0 to progress to the last four.

Harriers run away with first prizes

MALDWYN Harriers' senior runners put their best foot forward to clinch individual and team honours in the last meeting of the Herefordshire Cross-Country Winter League series at Nash Wood, Presteigne.

Tim Davies and Nicola Davies stormed to victory in their respective races to claim the overall and senior men's and women's titles, while the Harriers also took the men's team title - the first time in the league's history that the trophy has left England.

As well as Tim - who won all four of his races - Bryan Arthur, Martin Copus, Ed Davies, Roger Farrington, Anthony Powell, Glen Speake and Todd Tanner all scored in one or more races to ensure team victory.

Nicola, meanwhile, spearheaded Maldwyn's women to fifth place in the final standings, which represented a big improvement on last year.

The club's senior cross-country team captain Ifan Jones was delighted with the outcome and praised a terrific team effort that saw more than 30 Harriers having take part over the course of the season.

Meanwhile, Kaya Saul and Todd Tanner took the under-17 and under-20 men's titles, while fellow Harrier Martin Green won the mens over-55 series.

Bryan Arthur (over-45) and Chris Copus (over-60) were second in their respective categories and Julia Ellis finished third in the women's over-45 section.

TNS Ladies smash eight as they go clear at top

HIGH-FLYING The New Saints ladies opened up a six point gap at the top of the West Midlands Women's League premier division with an 8-0 rout of Leamington.

Charlotte Canlett, Emily Ridge and Laura Morris all scored twice in the encounter played at TCAT, with Sam Berry and Lauren Armstrong the other contributors.

The hosts took the lead just under a quarter of an hour into the game when good play down the left wing saw Burke's shot rebound off the goalkeeper to the feet of Armstrong who placed the ball into the empty net.

The Saints then doubled their advantage just over 10 minutes later when Canlett crashed home a shot in from the edge of the box.

The league leaders then continued their dominance in possession and 10 minutes before half time, leading scorer Ridge netted her 31st goal of the season.

Three minutes later she added a fourth and the Saints started the second period even brighter than in the first half, with the Shropshire side soon adding their fifth of the afternoon through Morris.

Canlett then added her second of the game with just over 20 minutes to play and the Saints kept up the pressure but were unable to add anymore goals until five minutes from time when Morris spun her defender and fired into the net.

Berry then added the eighth goal as she was afforded space on the edge of the box once again, but this time she made no mistake to fire into the corner of the net.

This rounded off the Saints' impressive win that took them six points clear at the top of the league, and they look to continue the winning ways away to Wednesday Town Ladies on Sunday at Amos Lane (2pm).

It was also a good day for TNS ladies under-18s who swept aside Stourbridge Junior Girls 6-0 with two goals from Grace Blowers and Taylor Davis, with Swazie Harris and Michelle Pasco also on target.

The under-16s drew 0-0 with Trysull Tigers Girls, while the under-12s went down 4-0 to their AFC Telford Girls counterparts.

Teleri Ottawa fired a hat-trick as TNS under-14s ran out emphatic 7-0 winners over Shrewsbury Up and Comers Girls.

St Martins suffer rare loss on road

ST MARTINS saw their winning run come to halt after slipping to a 2-0 loss at Hereford Lads Club in the West Midlands League division one.

After five wins on the bounce, the Saints were looking to keep the momentum going, but were grounded by their Herefordshire hosts to slip to third in the table.

They made the trek with four first teamers missing, but started well enough in an even opening before the Lads Club sounded a warning on the half hour when Dan Herbert brought a good save from keeper Jake Northwood with a powerful low shot.

But the Saints were on top for the last 15 minutes of the half, and had their chances with Karl Bailey having a shot deflected for a corner following a good run down the left by Shawn Melusi.

And it was Melusi who went close to making the breakthrough before half time, first hitting the post before seeing another effort cleared off the line.

St Martins, however, were unable to maintain the momentum in the second period, as they struggled to keep possession.

They went behind on the hour when Herbert headed in a cross from Jamie Cuthbertson, before Tom Harding added a second five minutes later.

The Saints had their chances, but it was not to be as they look for a swift riposte in Saturday's home clash with Team Dudley at Park Hall.

Guilsfield back with a timely win bonus

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

AFTER their cup frustrations, GUILDSFIELD were feeling a whole lot better with life after securing a 3-1 victory at Porthmadog to consolidate their top five position in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

The villagers were left fuming after their Welsh Cup tie against Airbus UK was twice postponed less than an hour before kick-off, meaning they now lose home advantage.

But they responded in the best way possible with three points to keep them in the title mix, with Andy Ford (32) and Adam Jenkins (37) on the mark in the first half, before Jake Cook sealed the win in the last minute after Gruff Williams had pulled one back.

"After the saga of what's happened in the Welsh Cup, it was nice to get back to playing football and it was a great result for us," said boss Dan Barton.

"I thought the lads' minds might be on the cup, but they were terrific all over the pitch and we could have scored a few more."

With Nathan Leonard running the show in midfield, the Guils were fully deserving of the points as they sent Port slipping to a third consecutive league defeat with a well-drilled display that keeps them in sight of the leaders.

Port's best effort on goal came on seven minutes when Gruff Williams running the show in midfield, the Guils were fully deserving of the points as they sent Port slipping to a third consecutive league defeat with a well-drilled display that keeps them in sight of the leaders.

For most part defences were on top, but Guilsfield were an increasingly a threat on the break with home keeper Richard Harvey having to save at the feet of Jenkins who broke into the box after 20 minutes.

The visitors would have gone ahead after 25 minutes but for great defensive work from Iddon Price who halted Jenkins when the forward burst clean through on goal.

But they went ahead just past the half hour mark when a clearance reached Ford 30 yards out and his powerful shot beat outstretched keeper Harvey.

A second goal arrived five minutes later when the ball was given away in midfield, allowing the Guils to break quickly with Cook running into space and crossing to the far post where Jenkins raced in to tap home.

Port revived their hopes after 72 minutes when Price's excellent free kick to the back post was met by Gruff Williams and his powerful header found the corner of the net.

Buoyed by the goal, the hosts pushed forward but the visitors held firm and sealed the victory late on with Jake Cook racing through to find the net with a clinical finish.

Meanwhile Caerswg remain rooted to the foot of the table after slumping 5-2 at home to Flint Town United. The Bluebirds were brought back down to earth as a hat-trick from Simon Tewell along with a strike from Stuart Carroll gave the visitors a 4-0 lead early in the second half.

The villagers threatened a fightback with replies from Jojo Harries and a penalty from Mark Griffiths, now back at the club from Newtown.

But there was no way back once Kyle Smythe netted a fifth in the 71st minute for the visitors who also missed a penalty.

Jack's the lad with four on debut



FC Oswestry Town manager Nick Maguire welcomes new signing Jack Harris

THE title is now firmly in the hands of FC Oswestry Town who opened up a three point gap at the top of the Mercian Regional League premier division with a convincing 7-3 home success over lowly Wrockwardine Wood.

With their only realistic challengers Allscott suffering a 2-1 home loss to Rock Rovers, Town are now sitting pretty in pole position with two games in hand.

New signing Jack Harris made an instant impression with four of the goals, top scorer Chris Bishop also weighing in with a hat-trick, while all the goals came courtesy of seven assists from winger Guy Guilford.

Next up is a trip to fifth placed Rock Rovers on Saturday, but Nick Maguire's men now appear favourites for the crown with just seven league games remaining.

Although visiting Wrockwardine Wood did start brightly and took the lead after 15 minutes, this woke up Town up who responded within two minutes with Bishop hitting the post.

One minute later, they levelled when winger Guilford crossed from the left and new signing Harris scored with a well guided header.

Just minutes later, Town netted again to take the lead with Guilford supplying Harris to slot the ball home for his second goal of the game.

Now on the front foot, the hosts went further ahead when Guilford was brought down on the edge of the box and up stepped Bishop who fired into the top left corner.

The second half saw the Oswestry side go close in the early stages with both Bishop and Olly Jones hitting the bar, before

Bishop fired in Town's fourth after Guilford had again supplied the pass.

The visitors, however, hit back with two quick goals both from long range to make the score 4-3 and put themselves back in the hunt. But Nick Maguire's men asserted their authority again with Harris completing his hat-trick by lobbing the keeper from 18 yards following another Guilford assist.

Soon after, Bishop grabbed his third of the game with a cool finish after more terrific work from Guilford, and the game was well and truly over when Harris headed in his fourth from Guilford's cross from the left.

It rounded off a fine Town performance that gained a valuable three points with strikers Bishop and Harris netting seven goals between them.

Draper opened his account when tapping in Jamie Mullan's excellent cross in the 33rd minute, and moments later the striker added his second when sweeping in another close range effort after more good work by winger Mullan.

Newtown had a few openings after the break, Boundford slicing wide, Matty Owen failed to capitalise on a poor goal kick while Sean Evans' cross was deflected inches past the post.

But the Saints were a threat every time they ventured forward, and made the points safe in the 65th minute as Draper completed his hat-trick when rounding keeper Jones after a pass from substitute Ryan Brobbel had split the defence.

Following the introduction of Mike Wilde and Scott Quigley off the bench, the Saints maintained their attacking intentions, and almost bagged a fifth goal when Chris Marriott's shot was cleared off the line. However, they were not to be denied as they extended their lead with Wilde found space in the box and his left footed snap-shot beat keeper Jones.

Defender Kai Edwards then headed No6 in deep into stoppage time from a Marriott cross to complete a crushing victory for TNS who remain six points clear of second placed Bala Town who themselves were 3-0 winners at Airbus UK.

Guils fume as Welsh Cup match off again

GUILDSFIELD were left fuming after their Welsh Cup fourth round tie at home to Airbus UK was controversially postponed a second time due an unfit pitch at Clos Mytton.

After the first attempt succumbed to a waterlogged surface, the Guils were stunned when their rearranged clash in midweek was also postponed by referee Nick Pratt due to safety concerns less than an hour before kick-off.

The fact it has been called off twice meant the tie was now switched to the 3G pitch at Airbus' Hollingsworth Group Stadium under competition rules.

The Cymru Alliance club were rocked by the second late call-off, clearly feeling the pitch was playable for their big game, and planned to make an official complaint to the FAW.

"The main playing area looked decent, there was no surface water and the ball was travelling okay, so we were shocked by the decision," said a club spokesman.

"It was an embarrassing decision, the club is in disbelief. The magic of cup football has gone, and it would be nice if we got an official explanation over why he game was called off."

Manager Dan Barton was also furious at the second late postponement, which he felt devalued the competition.

"I played Welsh Premier football for 20 years and I have never seen a decision like it," he said.

"The referee turned up less than an hour before kick-off and conducted the pitch inspection in moulded boots before saying the pitch was unsafe for him and the officials.

"We asked him what standard he was measuring the pitch against and he told us Welsh Premier which is ridiculous as it would mean no club outside the Welsh Premier could host games in the Welsh Cup.

"It is all the more ridiculous when you look at some of the pitches in the Welsh Premier which are like bogs at this time of year but are still passed fit."

Second half comeback is key for Llan

IN a game of two contrasting halves, Llanfair United reserves stormed back to overturn an interval deficit to overcome Morda United 3-2 to move six points clear at the top of JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one.

In a hotly anticipated game between two potential title winners, Morda dominated the first half and should have scored more than the goal they did score on 20 minutes.

But they found Chris Humphreys in good form in the Llanfair goal and also spurned a few chances, while Llanfair's best first half opportunities fell to Toby Evans and Ross Lewis whose efforts were saved and went wide respectively.

In the second half, Llanfair stepped up a gear and put on one of the performances of the season.

They equalised when Ben Jones picked up the ball in his own half, dribbled past several Morda players, laid it off to Toby Evans who crossed brilliantly for Matt Bumford to score at the back post.

Llanfair were soon 2-1 up when Toby Evans' through ball found Josh Astley whose original effort was saved but, while lying on the floor, prodded the ball into the empty net.

And they increased the advantage through Toby Evans who cut in after finding himself inside the area on the byline, and placed the ball into the net.

Llanfair then missed another three good chances and had a goal ruled out for offside, before Morda pulled one back late on to set up a tense finish.

Buoyed by the crucial success, Llanfair look to maintain their winning ways when they host Crannog on Saturday in the quarter finals of the Emrys Morgan Cup (2pm).

Six of the best from super New Saints

GREG Draper's hat-trick helped keep The New Saints riding high at the top of the Dafabet Welsh Premier with a 6-0 thrashing of Newtown at Latham Park.

The defending champions were in unstoppable form against the Robins, with Draper netting twice in the first half on 33 and 35 minutes after Adrian Cieslewicz had opened the scoring with a terrific solo run in the 24th minute.

Draper completed his treble on 65 minutes, before sub Mike Wilde and Kai Edwards also found the net to seal a commanding win that will put the Saints in good heart for when the two sides meet again in the Welsh Cup quarter-finals early next month at Park Hall.

Despite a modest return of seven points from their previous six league outings, the Saints were firing on all cylinders as they returned to winning ways in relentless fashion on a day to forget for Newtown. And boss Craig Harrison could not have asked for any more from his side who continued on the goal trail after the previous week's thumping 5-2 victory at Barry Town in the fourth round of the Welsh Cup.

"Newtown have given us some tough games over the last two or three years, so we're delighted to come away with a 6-0 win," he said.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

"We were excellent from the first whistle to the last, everyone was hungry, and it was one of those days when the whole team was top drawer."

"It could have been a few more in the end, their keeper made some good saves, but I'm not going to complain at scoring six."

"We've not scored as many goals as we have done at this stage last season, but to get 11 away from home in our last two games will give us a lot of confidence going forward."

Both sides had early chances, but the writing was on the wall for the hosts once Polish winger Cieslewicz broke the deadlock midway through the first half with a superb solo goal after weaving his way through the defence before slotting past keeper Dave Jones.

Newtown threatened an instant reply as TNS were forced into some desperate defending in a goalmouth scramble from a Craig Williams corner, Matty Owen and Luke Boundford having shots blocked before the ball was cleared.

But that was as good as it got for Chris Hughes' men who conceded two goals in as many minutes as



There's work to be done – Stephens

BOSS Rhys Stephens knows there's plenty of hard work ahead as Llanfair United resume their quest for Cymru Alliance survival in Saturday's testing trip to Flint Town United.

After last weekend's fixture with basement rivals Conwy Borough at the Mount Field was postponed due to an unfit pitch, United will be raring to go again.

They remain six points clear of the bottom three, but still with much to do if they are to escape relegation trouble.

"We've given ourselves a fighting chance," said manager Stephens.

"But we're not complacent as there is a long way to go and you can soon lose five or six on the bounce in this league.

"Anything we get from Flint will be a bonus.

"I saw them win 5-2 at Caersws last Saturday and they looked a good, strong side.

Dugout

"But we'll be going there to win, as we do with every game.

"It was disappointing not to play last weekend ourselves, but there was not much we could do about it.

"Ninety-five per cent of the pitch was fine, but it was just in front of the dugout that was unplayable.

"But we haven't had too many called off due to the weather this season, we're not behind on our games."

Meanwhile, reserve team keeper Mark Richards has made a smooth transition to the first team following the departure of Lee Andrew to local Cymru Alliance rivals Guilsfield.

"Lee's been fantastic for us over four years and we wish him well," added Stephens.

"But Mark has done well for us in the three games he's played. He deserves his chance."

The arrival of Andrew at Guilsfield will increase the competition between the posts with Dave Littleford currently the No.1.

Pool target a first victory of the year

WELSHPOOL TOWN will be chasing their first win of the year in the Spar Mid Wales League division one when they take on Llanidloes Town at Maes-ydre on Saturday.

After an excellent first half of the campaign that saw the Lilywhites climb as high as second, Pool's momentum has stalled due to the weather and a run of defeats. They now lie fifth.

Their last league win was on Boxing Day when they beat local rivals Waterlool Rovers 2-1. But 2016 has seen three postponements and defeats to three of the leading clubs – Carno (3-0), Knighton Town (2-0) and Penrhynoch (4-3).

Neighbours Waterlool Rovers have also suffered a barren run of results to slip to 10th in the table, so will be looking to halt their losing sequence when they head to Machynlleth this weekend.

Relegation-threatened Montgomery, with just one win to their name this season, face a tricky clash away to Hay St Mary's.

Llan take on tricky Trophy Town trip

THE FAW Trophy adventure continues for Llanrhadeir on Saturday when they head to Abergavenny Town in the quarter-finals of the prestigious competition.

The Villagers are again on the road (1.30pm) after overcoming Flintshire club Greenfield 3-2 in a thrilling encounter in the previous round.

But it promises to be a tricky trip, particularly as they will be without unavailable keeper Connor Lee and suspended duo Wayne Austin and Ben White.

Austin was sent off in last weekend's 3-3 draw at Machynlleth that saw Llan lose ground in the Spar Mid Wales League division one title race. Lee Davies is expected to stand in.

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Llan, who have reached only one previous final, losing to Penycae, would dearly like to progress further in this season's competition.

And they will need to draw on the kind of resolve that saw them win at Greenfield in a thrilling last-16 encounter.

Llan had twice led through Chris Aitken's brace, but were pegged back both times by their hosts, the second leveller coming in the last minute. But, just as extra time seemed on the cards, the visitors snatched victory at the death with a Gary Meredith header.

Abergavenny, 2-1 winners at Rhondda club FC Marvels in the previous round, will be a tough nut to crack and are currently going well in the Welsh League division three.

They lie joint top with 13 wins, three draws and three defeats from their 19 games as they chase promotion. They were emphatic 7-2 home winners against Newport Civil Service last weekend.

Another Spar Mid Wales League side, Carno, are also flying the flag in the quarter-finals of the Trophy when they entertain south Wales visitors Sully Sports.

Carno warmed up for this weekend's big clash by maintaining their challenge in the Spar League with a 3-0 victory at Welshpool Town.

Welsh Cup dream over for Guils

IT WAS the end of the road for Guilsfield in the Welsh Cup after they suffered a 3-0 exit at Airbus UK in their prolonged fourth round tie.

With a place in the quarter-finals at stake, the match at the Guils' Clos Mytton base had twice been postponed controversially due to an unfit pitch – both call-offs coming less than an hour before kick-off.

Under competition rules, the encounter was transferred to the Wingmakers' 3G pitch at the Hollingsworth Group Stadium in Broughton.

And the Welsh Premier side capitalised on being handed home advantage to set up a meeting with Bala Town in the last eight, despite being given a tough test by the Cymru Alliance outfit.

In an even first half, Jack Richards went close for the Guils with a strike over the angle in the opening minutes and skipper Gareth Jones saw his shot cleared, while at the other end visiting keeper Dave Littleford made a good save to deny Tony Gray.

The Guils keeper produced another smart stop to prevent Chris Budrys from opening the Airbus account, but the striker was not to be denied as he sent a glancing header into the far corner from Wayne Riley's cross for a crucial breakthrough just before the interval.

Gray hammered a shot against an up-right just after half-time, but – after the visitors had strong claims for a penalty turned down – added the second with a fine individual strike as Guilsfield's hopes of an upset faded.

Budrys then wrapped up the win with another excellent header from Gray's cross two minutes from the end of normal time.

Despite the defeat, the Guils could hold their heads high after the controversial loss of home advantage, and now return to Cymru Alliance action on Saturday with a crunch home clash against Cefn Druids (2.30pm).

Eagles scour Moor for further prey

TITLE-CHASING Oswestry look to stay top of rugby's Cheshire South when they visit Heaton Moor on Saturday.

The Eagles remain three points clear of second-placed Manchester Medics after last weekend's hard-fought 26-10 success at Marple.

And they will be banking on similar resolve against another mid-table side this weekend.

Oswestry are already looking good for a top-two finish, having opened up a 12-point lead on third-placed Vagabonds, who themselves boosted their cause with a 26-20 victory at close rivals Dukinfield.

Last weekend, the Eagles ran in four tries to record their 15th win in 16 outings.

Across the border, COBRA – with five wins from the last six and four consecutive victories – put their revival to the test when they head to high-flying Nant Conwy on Saturday in the Swalec Welsh League division one (north).

Before then, the Meifod side were scheduled to visit Colwyn Bay in the quarter-final of the North Wales Plate on Wednesday night.

SAINTS FACING A BALA BATTLE

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

THE New Saints put their title credentials on the line when they visit in-form Bala Town in a Dafabet Welsh Premier top-of-the-table battle on Saturday.

Both sides go into the S4C televised clash in good heart, the Saints winning 6-0 at Newtown last weekend after putting five goals past Barry Town in the Welsh Cup.

But second-placed Bala are also in good shape, extending their unbeaten run to 10 games with a fine 3-0 triumph at Airbus UK to boost their hopes of another summer in Europe.

The two sides were locked in a goalless stalemate at Maes Tegid earlier in the season, and TNS boss Craig Harrison knows his side will need to be on their mettle when the whistle sounds at 5.15pm.

"It's going to be a tough game, they had a great result to win at Airbus last week, but it's a challenge we're looking forward to," he said.

"Bala have been brilliant in the last two seasons, they finished runners-up last year and are second this time around, and they fully deserve to be where they are. But we will go into the game with confidence after scoring six goals last week and five the week before."

After a modest seven points from their previous six games, the league's defending champions sounded their intentions with that six-goal rout of Newtown. Victory, with Greg Draper firing a hat-trick, kept them six points clear at the top and on course for a fifth successive Welsh Premier crown.

"Newtown have given us some tough games over the last two or three years, so it was fantastic to come away with a 6-0 win on Saturday," added Harrison. "We were excellent from the first whistle to the last.

"Although we've conceded two fewer goals than we had at this stage last season, we've not scored as many. I think we are 18-20 down on last season.

"But we've now scored 11 goals in our last two games, which is very pleasing."

Fans bag the prize at Cardiff



Paul Breeze and Chris Bellerby soak up the Cardiff atmosphere before hitting the tackle bag

TWO hard-hitting Welshpool rugby fans took on their biggest challenge at Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Paul Breeze and Chris Bellerby were among a group of supporters who displayed their tackling skills – in front of a 75,000 crowd at the Wales-Scotland international.

Hi-tech tackle bags measured how hard they hit – and the pair produced the winner.

The pals had won a competition sponsored by Wales kit suppliers Under Armour which gave them free tickets to the game and the chance to strut their stuff on the hallowed turf.

"This was an amazing experience and I cannot thank Under Armour and WRU enough,"

said Breeze, who entered the competition after spotting it on Twitter.

"Just before half-time we were escorted to the other side of the stadium and into the Under Armour tunnel where we were presented with a brand new shiny pair of boots.

"I was chosen to go first and the nerves well and truly set in! I gave it my all – Chris gave it even more and was the outright winner.

"Chris won two tickets to an autumn international game in the Under Armour corporate box."

Our day had just got better as Chris announced he would be bringing me back with him to repay the favour."

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Published by the Oswestry Chronicle and printed by Shropshire Newspapers Limited, Ketley, Telford. Registered at the P.O. as a newspaper. Price when sold 60p

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